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Sub-Saharan Africa Report

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26 MAY 1987

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UNITA CLAIMS ATTACKS ON QUICOMBO, EBO

Lisbon SEMANARIO in Portuguese 4 Apr 87 p 50

[Article by Carlos da Matta]

[Text] In the most recent UNITA war communique that has come to our attention, UNITA claims it attacked the Quicombo lighthouse and captured the town of Ebo. Both localities are in Kuanza-Sul Province. The news reached Luanda via foreign radio stations and we have not yet been able to confirm it from an independent source. But it is true that there has been widespread fighting in practically every part of that province--and that this has even extended to the immediate vicinity of its capital city, Sumbe, which was attacked by a large UNITA force three years ago.

After that, Jonas Savimbi's movement attacked again, a little more than 10 km from the city, and the Quicombo lighthouse is an example of a pattern that occurs repeatedly. To reach it, small guerrilla units had to cover quite a distance over open territory and then cross the Sumbe-Lobito highway. They did this without meeting any opposition. The lighthouse, which overlooks a small cove, is located near a highway bridge 13 km from Sumbe.

Ebo, site of the other attack, is an interior town with a strategic position north of the Queve river that permits access to both Wako-Kungo (once the settlement of Cela), Quibala, and Gabela. This is why it has been the object of violent combat since the beginning of the civil war in 1975. If, as UNITA claims, it has managed to penetrate the village this time, this event could be of importance for subsequent operations.

Strategic Province

Kuanza-Sul occupies a geographical position that places it on the route UNITA units take when moving northward and approaching Luanda. If the FAPLA can close off the province, there would be less pressure on Malanje, Kuanza-Norte and even Uije and Bengo--unless, as is sometimes said, Dr. Savimbi's forces use the Zairian border. Despite the resources available to it, the government troops have not been able to do this.

At the same time, UNITA's recent suggestion to reopen the Benguela railroad to civilian traffic exclusively is circumstance whose practical consequences

are still difficult to determine because the government's policy is unknown. But as we said here weeks ago, everything leads us to believe that Lonrho, a multinational firm interested in the railroad, must have made inquiries both in Angola and abroad in order to reach a tacit agreement similar to the one which protected the CFB from attacks during the colonial period.

Obviously, such an agreement would not put an end to the war. But in Angolan democratic and pacifist circles, where people are campaigning for peace, the new was received as something "that ought to be implemented and supported, especially because it could open the way for others, such as accords to protect the rights of the civilian population, exchange prisoners, etc."

Meanwhile, we note that both MPLA-PT and UNITA are adding to their numbers of combatants, and the intense activity in the strategic province of Kuanza-Sul is an example of this.

12830/12951

CSO: 3442/136

JOURNALIST DESCRIBES SOJOURN WITH UNITA

Lisbon TEMPO in Portuguese 12 Mar 87 p 64

[Article by Handerl de Oliveira]

[Excerpt] Jamba--Tomorrow is going to be a day of celebration in this place which UNITA considers to be the provisional capital of Angola. People will gather here from all over the country, from Cabinda to Cunene, just as they have for years now, to commemorate the 21st anniversary of the movement headed by Jonas Savimbi and founded in Mungai, Muxico district. When we left Jamba last week after a ten-day visit to the territories liberated by UNITA, the first participants in the festival were already starting to arrive. For them, this meant the end of journey begun 3 months or more ago and made under grueling conditions, following trails blazed through the middle of the jungle, where it takes 5 days to travel 300 km by car. Many, however, came on foot.

For the many hundreds of people who will attend--including quite a few journalists, political figures and businessmen from Europe and the Americas--the sacrifice is worthwhile. They believe in and are fighting for the installation of a free and democratic regime in Angola and trust in UNITA to achieve that goal.

It is a force of mythic proportions that drives these Angolans. There is no fanaticism in their behavior--just determination and confidence. It is these qualities that enable them to endure a life of austerity, but in which there is no hunger, the people are well-dressed, medical care is effective, and education from kindergarten through elementary school and on to the preparatory and secondary levels is furnished to thousands of children and adults--as is vocational education. Still, it is a life that lacks many of the comforts that people usually enjoy nowadays.

Jamba is a city built in the middle of the African jungle, on sandy soil. It has running water and electricity, spacious and well-ventilated huts, multi-purpose pavilions, a social center, hospital, schools, factories, etc. It has already been described in these columns by Marize de Oliveira, so we won't repeat it now. In future columns we will mention other aspects that surprised us during this visit. The UNITA reality surprised even the best-informed among us.

Security at Jamba

What we would particularly like to talk about today is the security of life in the liberated territories and the obviously favorable position which UNITA holds in military terms. This is demonstrated by the fact that, although the visit of Portuguese journalist and reporters from other nationalities was widely publicized in various countries, MPLA, despite Cuban and Soviet support, has been powerless to attempt to retaliate militarily. Nor will it be able to do anything to disturb the celebration of UNITA's 21st anniversary, which MPLA knows will take place tomorrow in Jamba.

The UNITA attack at Cabinda some days ago reinforced this favorable military position. The airport serving that enclave, where several dozen foreign technicians are drilling for oil, was destroyed. The airport was initially knocked out of service and the flights, which were being made at night, were suspended for safety reasons. The electronic system was also destroyed, so that it became possible to use the airport only during the day and by resorting to emergency procedures.

12830/12951

CSO: 3442/136

BRIEFS

INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS' PEACE CAMPAIGN--Independent Democrats in Angola are circulating a pamphlet announcing the start of their democratic campaign for peace in Angola, CADEP. They specify the conditions under which life in Angola can be brought back to normal: a cease-fire, release of prisoners by both sides, withdrawal of all foreign troops, human rights, and elections. They also call for a system to verify and guarantee any eventual agreements. [Text] [Lisbon SEMANARIO in Portuguese, 21 Mar 87 p 64] 12830

PORTUGUESE ASSISTANCE IN DAM REBUILDING--Discussions between the governments of Portugal and the People's Republic of Angola regarding the rebuilding of the Lomaun dam in the southern part of the country have been virtually completed. The dam was seriously damaged during clashes between MPLA and UNITA. Technical assistance is to be provided by a group of Portuguese companies that includes Somague and EDP. Portugal will open a \$30 million line of credit in favor of the Angolan Government. As collateral, the Angolans will deposit 300,000 tons of petroleum at the Sines refinery, beginning in the 3rd quarter of this year and continuing for the subsequent 6 months. Portugal will be able to incorporate the petroleum into its strategic reserves. The terms of this part of the agreement have already been negotiated between Sonagol and Petrogal and the Portuguese Government, through the State Secretary for Foreign Trade, has given its guarantee. Only the formal signature by the representatives of the two oil companies is pending; that ceremony is expected to take place this month. [Text] [Lisbon AFRICA HOJE in Portuguese Feb 87 p 25] 12830

/12951

CSO: 3442/136

BURKINA

BRIEFS

LIFTING FRENCH AIRLINE BAN--Libreville, 28 March (AFP)--Burkina Faso today decided to lift the ban it had placed on 20 March on the French airline company UTA [Air Transports Union] from landing in Ouagadougou, its capital, it was learned in Libreville from a very reliable source. According to the same source, Gabonese President Omar Bongo, at the request of the French authorities, had promised to intercede with his Burkinabe counterpart, Captain Thomas Sankara. President Bongo's efforts have therefore been successful as the ban that was placed on UTA because of its flights to and from South Africa has now been lifted. [Text] [Paris AFP in French 1234 GMT 28 Mar 87 AB] /12858

JOINT PROJECTS WITH GHANA--The cabinet of the revolutionary government met today, Wednesday, 15 April, under the chairmanship of the comrade president of Burkina Faso. It examined and adopted several documents. Ministry of Equipment: Adoption of a kiti [decree] concerning the protection of topographic projects aimed at preserving the state projects from damage caused by various new development projects. It is necessary to reconcile the need to embark on important new development projects with the need to avoid causing serious damage to the existing ones. The cabinet welcomed the positive evaluation of the extensive and noble projects which are aimed at breaking all barriers between Ghana and Burkina Faso. At the highest levels of political leadership of the two revolutions, through ever-increasing harmonization efforts, concrete tasks are being defined and outlined for the two governments. In this way, Ghanaian and Burkinabe nationals, conscious of the energy situation in their countries, have asked their respective ministries to undertake the urgent integration of electric power between their two electricity corporations. At the same time, the united front, which they will form to carry out the important dam project at (Numbiel), will offer them both agricultural and electricity potential. The Burkinabe equipment minister has made arrangements to be present at the rendezvous fixed by the comrade president of Burkina Faso. [Excerpts] [Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 15 Apr 87 AB] /12858

CSO: 3400/55

ETHIOPIA

BRIEFS

ROAD LINKS ARSSI DISTRICTS--Assela (ENA)--A 131-kms long road built at a cost of over 1,753,000 birr raised by the residents of five districts in Arba-Gugu province of Arssi region to link four districts opened for traffic recently. A 37-kms road construction scheme undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture in cooperation with the local people at a cost of over 3 million birr to connect Golelecha district with the regional capital and other provinces is also progressing well. Comrade Endale Tessema, member of the CC of the WPE and Minister of Interior, in company with regional party and government officials recently visited the progress in road construction and other development undertaking under way in the region. These included a sports stadium under construction and the Arba Gugu provincial WPE Committee office. [Excerpt] [Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 8 Apr 87 p 1] /9317

CSO: 3400/683

BRIEFS

IMF DIVISIONS BREWING--Sharp divisions have developed among senior civil servants and politicians around Flt Lt Jerry Rawlings about the implementation of IMF policies. One group is uneasy about the Fund's instructions to drop subsidies on education; it is even less happy about the proposal to push the 'second-window' rate from 152 cedis to the US dollar to C180 by the middle of this year. The opposing faction believes that the IMF programme must be stuck to without flinching. Its leader, not surprisingly, is Dr Kwesi Botchwey, the economic mastermind of present-day Ghana. The first group asserts that the Rawlings government is losing support among urban workers. The second insists that sacrifice is the only medicine. Arguments became so heated at one meeting that fighting broke out. Rawlings was not present--he was meeting a delegation from the IMF and the World Bank on the far side of the Castle, the seat of government. [Text] [London AFRICA ANALYSIS in English 6 Mar 87 p 10] /9317

CSO: 3400/728

PLANNING MINISTER JEFFY RESPONDS TO U.S. GAO REPORT

Monrovia DAILY STAR in English 9 Mar 87 pp 5, 4

[Text]

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press, I have called this Press Conference this morning to clarify certain issues relating to the draft summary report of the U.S. General Accounting Office on U.S. Assistance to Liberia which was presented to Senator Kennedy of the United States Senate on February 22nd, and Senator Kennedy's subsequent comments on the report.

Despite the fact that the report has not yet been officially submitted to the government of Liberia, we strongly believe that we should address it at this point because of the wide publicity given the Senator's remarks.

In June 1986, Senator Kennedy requested the U.S. General Accounting Office (G.A.O.) to review U.S. Assistance Program in Liberia since 1980.

Why this particular period was chosen, I do not know. The Senator specifically requested that the G.A.O. team look into (1) whether there was any evidence of misuse or diversion of U.S. assistance and (2) whether accountability of the controls over U.S. assistance were adequate.

The G.A.O. team was in Liberia for several weeks in September and October 1986. Some discussions were held between the team and a few public corporations like LPNC, and even the General Auditing Office of Liberia. The discussions were open as we did not have anything to hide. The team returned to the U.S. and some time in February 1987 transmitted a briefing report to Senator Kennedy.

Senator Kennedy's staff prepared a press release based on the briefing report and the February 22nd New York Times article was based on the press release.

I will like to comment on two areas that were the subject of the briefing report and the Senator's press release -- The Economic Support Fund Program (ESF) and the P.L. 480 Program.

E.S.F.

The briefing report stated that the ESF program during fiscal years 1900-1984 encountered a number of control problems, including instances of government utilizing E.S.F. grants for purposes and in amounts other than those mutually agreed upon with USAID. Specific control programs included (1) the government's failure to establish Special Accounts for use of \$12 million in E.S.F. grants to purchase offshore oil, even though the grant agreements had earmarked the funds for the support of specific development ministries; (2) difficulties in accounting for and reporting on over \$50 million in counterpart funds; and (3) other instances of the government not complying with payments agreements.

These three main points of the briefing report are clearly not an accurate reflection of the facts. I am surprised that the General Accounting Office team could make such a claim when there are records to prove that every single cent of E.S.F. granted to the Republic of Liberia by the U.S.

Government has been accounted for by the Government of Liberia.

The system adopted for the use of ESF funds with the U.S. Government since 1980 provides that a full expenditure report is prepared by Government and submitted to USAID/Monrovia. It is only upon the certification and approval of the report that additional ESF funds are provided by the U.S. government.

The \$12.0 million referred to in the G.A.O. briefing covers the first two E.S.F. grants to Liberia in Fiscal Year 1980/81. These were specifically (1) E.S.F. Grant 669k601 signed on August 26, 1980 in the amount of \$5.0 million and (2) E.S.F. Grant 669k602 signed December 18, 1980 in the amount of \$7.0 million.

Both agreements stipulated that "in accordance with the disbursement request, USAID will deposit the funds in the account of the Government bank in the U.S. to be named by the Government. The Government will establish a special account in the National Bank of Liberia for the use of the funds". With regard to the use of the funds the agreements stated that "the Government agrees that the funds provided hereunder will be utilized for general budget support for the following development ministries:" (1) Ministry of Agriculture (2) Ministry of Education (3) Ministry of Health & Social Welfare (4) Ministry of Public Works.

The grant funds were deposited in Government's account at Morgan Guaranty in New York. As you are aware, during this period in 1980, nearly all external credit lines to Liberia were frozen and the Government had difficulties meeting payments externally. Consequently, \$12 million of the funds were utilized to pay for crude oil. The LPRC gave the equivalent amount to Government in local currency. The local funds were utilized for the purposes stated in both grant agreements.

I have here in my possession several letters from the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs and the Ministry of Finance to USAID/Monrovia reporting on the uses of these grant funds. I also have here a letter from USAID/Monrovia accepting these expenditure reports. The Government of Liberia has

also accounted for all other E.S.F. grants received from the U.S. Government.

Let's turn our attention now to the P.L. 480 program. The General Accounting Office briefing stated that "P.L. 480 commodities and counterpart funds generated from the sale of those commodities were misused by the Government of Liberia through its agent, which is responsible for rice sales. During the Fiscal Year 1983-84 such misuse contributed to a shortfall in the counterpart fund accounts totaling approximately \$16.5 million as of March 1985."

It is quite true that LPMC had problems with the P.L. 480 program in 1983 and in 1984. LPMC credited P.L. 480 rice to many customers and had problems collecting the money. When the matter was brought to the attention of Government, President Samuel Kanyon Doe, then Head of State, appointed a Special Task Force to collect delinquent sales proceeds due LPMC.

Some of the money was received and in the P.L.480 Memorandum of Understanding signed on July 22, 1985, LPMC agreed to repay the unrecovered portion amounting to \$9,684,668 in five installments of \$1,936,933. Of this, LPMC has paid back \$3.8 million.

The General Auditing Office team also claimed that "The Government-owned bank managing the counterpart fund accounts made (without authorization) withdrawals of approximately \$1.7 million from the Fiscal Year 1986 Special Account, and also that disbursements were made from this account without USAID's concurrence."

These claims also do not represent the facts. The Agricultural Cooperative Development Bank (ACDB) is the bank managing the P.L.480 accounts. LPMC is the Government agent responsible for handling the P.L.480 rice sales. Most of the freight charges for all P.L.480 rice shipped to Liberia are the responsibility of the Government. The Agricultural Bank had to meet these freight and other charges in advance and is reimbursed from the proceeds generated from the rice sale. All of this is agreed to between Government and USAID. The \$1.7 million referred to in the report is the debit

entry on the P.L. 480 Account for freight and other charges. There is no question about the legitimacy of these charges. If the report had been submitted to government, this simple straight-forward issue would have been clarified.

Allocations to projects funded from P.L.480 counterpart are agreed to between government and USAID/Monrovia. USAID/Monrovia and the government reached an agreement last year on the allocations to projects in the current fiscal year and funds are being disbursed on these allocations. The USAID Director did not agree to PL480 funds to be used on three projects. These were the Temple of Justice renovation, construction at the University of Liberia new campus, and support to operational costs of the Decoris Oil Palm

Project. After very long debate, government agreed to the USAID position. The revised Development Budget in operation now reflects this, and USAID has copies of the revised budget. The Decoris management, the Chief Justice of Liberia and the University of Liberia's president are all very unhappy about this, but have accepted the change.

Finally, we thought to provide the technical response which shows that the General Accounting Office Report to Senator Kennedy, was grossly inaccurate. Since the Senator's remarks were based on this inaccurate report, he was misled. I think the U.S. Mission in Liberia should be obligated to set the facts straight to the GAO report. I am disappointed with the report which I thought would be a technical and professional survey. I thank you.

/13046

CSO: 3400/706

EGYPT GRANTS FELLOWSHIPS IN AGRICULTURE

Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English 7 Apr 87 p 3

[Text]

Motivated by the Green Revolution launched by the President of Liberia, Dr. Samuel K. Doe, Egypt has decided to deepen its cooperation with Liberia especially in the various aspects of agriculture so as to share with the latter its rich knowledge and expertise in this field.

Predicated upon this, Egypt has granted five fellowships to qualified Liberians to pursue intensive training programmes in Vegetable Production, Animal Health, Poultry Production, Plant Protection and Cotton Production and Technology at the Egyptian International Centre for Agriculture (EICA) in Cairo.

Three recipients of these fellowships left here for Cairo in January of this year. Progress reports just received from Cairo said they are about to successfully complete their studies at the EICA.

The remaining two recipients, Messrs. Alfred Borlon and Joseph Baysah will leave here very shortly to participate in the specialized courses of the Production and Technology of Cotton and Plant Protection, respectively, scheduled to commence on April 15, at the Agriculture Centre.

However, the primary goal of these specialized courses is to assist and develop skills and techniques in Cotton cultivation and technology in the field of Plant Protection within a relatively short period of time.

Mr. Alfred Borlon, who will participate in the course of the Production and Technology of Cotton, holds an associate degree in Agriculture Science from the Cuttington University College (RDI) Rural Development Institute, Suacoco. He is an Agriculture Extension Officer at the Ministry of Agriculture.

Mr. Joseph Baysah, the participant in the Plant Protection Course, graduated from the Booker Washington Institute (BWI) in 1969 with a diploma in General Agriculture. He, as well, holds an Associate of Arts degree in Plant Science from the Rural Development Institute of the Cuttington University College, and serves as an Instructor in Rural Youth Programme at the Suacoco Public School, Bong County.

At the EICA, these Liberian fellowship recipients will be exposed to expertise in agriculture developed around the world in different environments and at various times considering the fact that Egypt is one of the oldest agricultural societies in the world.

/13046

CSO: 3400/704

LIBERIA

ISRAELI AMBASSADOR ON WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST IN AGRICULTURE

AB012151 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 2000 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] The Israeli ambassador to Liberia, Arye Ivtzan, has reaffirmed his government's willingness to assist Liberia in the planning of (?nuclear) farm estates and monitor the training of Liberians to man these facilities. He said since the resumption of relations between the two countries in August 1983, the Government of Israel has formed renewed and fruitful areas of cooperation with Liberia in various fields especially in agriculture, medicine, and economic and manpower development. For more details on this story, we join Bob Chengbe.

[Chengbe] Ambassador Ivtzan made the statement yesterday at Hotel Africa in Virginia at a reception tendered by the Israeli Embassy to mark the 39th independence anniversary of that country. Ambassador Ivtzan disclosed that the Israeli medical service in Liberia will be extended to other medical disciplines and that the number of Liberian doctors presently training in Israel will be increased from four to six in the next 2 years.

Foreign Minister J. Bernard Blamo commended the government and people of Israel for the development assistance made available to Liberia and said the Liberian government was highly appreciative of such assistance as it endeavors to forge national reconciliation, peace, and progress. Minister Blamo also lauded the Government of Israel for its bold decision a few weeks ago to impose limited sanctions against racist South Africa and said Liberia entertains the hope that with the ideals of liberty and equality enshrined in Israel's constitution, such challenge imposed will not be allowed to slip away.

/12858

CSO: 3400/686

INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR OFFERS AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION

Monrovia NEW LIBERIAN in English 27 Mar 87 p 3

[Text]

The Indonesian Ambassador to Liberia, Mr. Suradi Permana has extended an invitation to Agriculture Minister, S. Gblorzuo Toweh to visit Indonesia to observe the operation of Agricultural nucleus estates in that country.

According to an agriculture ministry release issued yesterday, Ambassador Permana extended the invitation when he paid a courtesy call on Minister Toweh at his Sinkor office. During their talks the two men discussed bilateral and technical cooperation between Liberia and Indonesia.

Ambassador Permana also expressed his country's

willingness to train Liberians in various agricultural disciplines including extension services in oil palm and coconut production and rural youth development.

Earlier, Minister Toweh welcomed Ambassador Permana to the agriculture ministry, and briefed him on government's Green Revolution program.

He thanked Ambassador Permana for his government's "kind offer" to train Liberians, and hoped that the two countries would continue to share ideas for the "common good" of their two countries and peoples.

/13046

CSO: 3400/711

ROMANIAN MOBILE TEAM PRAISED FOR PROFESSIONALISM

Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English 10 Mar 87 p 8

[Text]

The Commanding Officer of the Executive Mansion Guard Battalion, Brigadier General Edward W. Smith, has commended the 11-man Romanian mobile team for its high degree of professionalism and discipline during a recent training program in the country.

The 11-man Romanian mobile team arrived in the country recently to help train Liberian soldiers on the use of some military equipment offered by the Romanian Government to the Liberian Government to help boost its military.

Gen. Smith, who was speaking yesterday at the Ambassador Restaurant in Monrovia during a luncheon in honour of the team, said that the government was pleased over the performance of the team. He told the team that men trained by them were "inspired", and regretted that they have to leave the country soon.

In response, the head of the team, Chirieri Nicolae, thanked the government and people of Liberia for the warm hospitality accorded them during their stay in the country. He spoke highly of the friendliness and cooperation of those who were concerned with the training program.

/13046

CSO: 3400/707

BLAMO OUTLINES FOREIGN POLICY POSITIONS

Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English 9 Apr 87 pp 2, 25

[Interview with J. Bernard Blamo, Minister of Foreign Affairs, by C. William Allen and Mlanju Reeves; date and place not specified]

[Text]

ON THE RESUMPTION OF SOVIET-LIBERIAN RELATIONS:

"We have resumed this relationship because we have been friendly for some time. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has already recommended a team of officials to the President of Liberia for endorsement and appointment for the reopening of our mission in Moscow. We had a building there but it was given up. The Soviets still have a lease on their building here. As soon as President Doe can approve or perhaps modify the list, we will open our embassy."

ON U.S.-LIBERIAN COOPERATION IN MILITARY FIELD:

We have about a 3-year relationship in terms of a defense agreement, which provides for U.S. assistance in times of external attacks. Facilities here allow the U.S. Air Force to land and refuel in case of any crisis in the South Atlantic, of course with proper advance notice to the Government of Liberia. We have just concluded the terms for a new treaty which will have a duration of 10 years as opposed to the one which just expired, which was for three years.

ON RELATIONS WITH LIBYA:

Liberia's relationship with Libya is an interesting one. We do not have a resident ambassador nor a Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Monrovia, but we still have cordial economic relations. Libya was able to expend between \$23 and \$27 million in 1985/86 for the construction of one of the largest bottle manufacturing plants in West Africa. We also have constant relations when we meet at the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and other international conferences.

ON THE RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH ISRAEL

We resumed ties with Israel because we felt that the very nation (Egypt) for whom we broke off relations with Israel, resumed diplomatic relations. All that remains now is the question of Taba. We have no intention to transfer our embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

ON LIBERIA'S RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB WORLD:

I have no desire to conceal the fact that there is anger and resent-

ment in the Arab world about Liberia's reestablishment of diplomatic relations with Israel. We have felt the pinch because of Arab boycott of our shipping; but now I think through some of our effort, some Arabs are beginning to understand why we did what we did. We are not anti-Arab; in fact at the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU), I have come out boldly to say we think there should be an international peace conference on the Middle East. We believe the Palestinians have a right to self-determination and a state of their own.

ON THREE LIBERIAN AMBASSADORS WHO ABANDONED THEIR POSTS:

Dew Mayson (our former ambassador resident in Paris, France) was called for consultation; he refused to come but instead responded by sending a letter of resignation. Zamba Liberty (our former ambassador resident in Bonn, West Germany) served in his position for four consecutive years without coming home. He, too, was recalled for consultation but instead he just packed up his personal effects and "flipped" to the United

States. He (Liberty) sent neither a letter nor a telex. In the case of George Toe Washington (accredited to Washington, D.C., USA), it was a surprise. He was here for the inauguration. It was a shock when he sent a telex asking to be relieved of his post. My only problem with this is that he should have been more discreet and sent a letter instead of a telex.

ON INTERNATIONAL RESOLUTIONS EQUATING ZIONISM TO RACISM:

I don't think for one moment that the Government of Liberia would equate Zionism to Racism. Of course, the U.N. and OAU have come out with resolutions on this, but I am not too sure whether Liberia voted for these resolutions.

ON LIBERIA'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD:

What nation does not have human rights problems? I know America has human rights problems. There is no annual report on human rights in America. Of course, Amnesty International does one for them.

ON WHAT PROMPTED THE DECLINE IN LIBERIA'S LEADERSHIP ROLE IN AFRICAN AND WORLD: POLITICS:

In 1980, there was a break with the past. But nations are essentially conservative; they allow for

periods of radicalism and rapid change but they go back to equilibrium...I believe we slipped a little, but we have come back.

ON LIBERIA'S POSITION REGARDING THE CHADIAN CONFLICT:

We believe that there is a recognized Chadian Government headed by Hissene Habre, although there was no election. What we are opposed to is the presence of a member of the U.N. and OAU and Non-Aligned Movement coming into Chad and interfering. We also hope that the Chadian problem can be resolved peacefully.

ON THE AFGHAN CONFLICT AND THE GULF WAR:

We hope the Soviets will withdraw to allow a member of the Non-Aligned Movement to live in peace. Regarding the Persian Gulf War, Liberia's interest is involved...Several Liberian vessels have been bombed by either Iraqi or Iranian aircraft. We would like to see the war ended because it has caused thousands of lives.

ON THE PROBLEMS IN KAMPUCHEA AND LEBANON:

We feel that the Vietnamese have entered Cambodia (Kampuchea) as invaders. There have been widespread massacres. You now know that there are museums of skulls being established and there are shelves with thousands of skulls. This is terrible. We would hope that

Vietnam would withdraw to its own territory. So we would like democratic Kampuchea which has been recognized by the OAU, the UN and the Non-Aligned Movement to regain control of the country. We support the Kampuchean Government in exile. As for Lebanon, the government has not collected taxes for more than four years, the cabinet has never met for the last two or three years. There is unwarranted violence and general chaos as well as threats to education. So, Liberia would want this problem to be resolved. Many world powers have tried but have had difficulties. Perhaps, Syria could restore peace. But we hope they would withdraw after they have pacified the territory.

ON WHETHER LIBERIA STILL ENJOYS THE DISTINCTION OF LEADER OF DIPLOMACY IN AFRICA:

There are bigger African nations now. There was a time when Liberia was a 'Mecca' for other African leaders and Liberation Movements. They all came here and Tubman gave generously. In these modern times, you can not have political influence alone; you must have economic influence. Nigeria gives aid to millions — Angola, Mozambique; but we can't do that now (with our economic constraints). But we still have a place. It is still there, it is residual.

/13046

CSO: 3400/703

DOE WARNS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON DUTIES

Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English 9 Apr 87 p 3

[Article by Phillip N. Wesseh]

[Text]

President Samuel Kanyon Doe has told newly-commissioned government officials to "avoid excessive talking and get down to business" so as to overcome problems facing the nation.

"We all know the problems facing the economy. It is time that we talk less and do more in tackling the problems before us," he said; adding, "we have the capability to make our country more productive and less dependent on outside assistance."

Speaking last Friday at the Executive Mansion, when he commissioned 149 officials of government, Dr. Doe pointed out that "technicians" of government should now get down to work and evolve concrete solutions to problems facing the nation.

Noting the problems being faced by the nation, Dr. Doe told the newly-commissioned officials that they would be required to make yourselves accessible to the people and exhibit the finest leadership and mental qualities.

"...A public servant by the very nature of his position must be learned in the administration of good government. He must be given to sobriety, honesty and efficiency; be resourceful in

decision-making and responsible for his actions thereafter", the Liberian Leader informed the officials.

President Doe added that a public servant "must at all times assume the proper form of objectivity and remain responsive to the public interest, not allowing any room for mismanagement and inefficiency."

He reminded the officials that being a member of the cabinet, or whatever position they serve in, does not in any way make them "a privileged class, but only servants of the people" as there were many equally qualified Liberians.

Dr. Doe then urged them to remain true and faithful to themselves and to their country and strive to be entirely just in all their actions.

"You must endeavour to cultivate the virtues of hard work, honesty, integrity, sincerity, efficiency and effectiveness, which are so indispensable to the proper functioning of the offices you now occupy", said he.

He further told the officials that they should "never be too progressive to appreciate and retain what is good in the old, nor too traditionally static to eliminate that which is bad."

/13046

CSO: 3400/703

DOE ORDERS AUDIT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY

Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English 15 Apr 87 p 1

[Text]

The President of Liberia, Dr. Samuel Kanyon Doe, has ordered an immediate audit into the financial operations at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, from 1983 up to the present.

An Executive Mansion release issued here yesterday said the directive was contained in a letter from the President to the Auditor-General of Liberia, the Honourable Andrew Redd.

In his letter, Dr. Doe asserted that government has found it necessary to institute the special audit in the wake of reports of financial irregularities at that ministry.

Meanwhile, the Auditor-General is to submit his report to the President within one month.

President Doe's order came a few days after two deputy ministers at the ministry were dismissed for allegedly embezzling about a quarter million dollars.

/13046

CSO: 3400/702

CULTURE BUREAU SLATED TO RETURN TO INFORMATION MINISTRY

Monrovia NEW LIBERIAN in English 31 Mar 87 pp 1, 2

[Text]

The Liberian National Legislature has passed a bill returning the National Bureau of Culture and Tourism to the Ministry of Information.

According to an LBS newscast yesterday, the bill which has been forwarded to the President, Dr. Samuel K. Doe for his approval, revokes a PRC decree issued in 1981 establishing a separate Bureau of Culture and Tourism.

The newscast quoted a Capitol release as saying that the "isolated and fragmented National Bureau of Culture and Tourism had failed to ful-

fill the objectives for which it was established.

In a related legislative news, the House Committee on Information and Broadcasting is to sponsor a bill making the Liberia News Agency an autonomous agency, and another bill instituting a National Broadcast Fee.

The committee's chairman, Hon. Chea S. Kayee of Grand Gedeh County, was quoted as saying that the heads of the two agencies (LINA and LBS) would be called upon subsequently to defend the bill when it is brought up for hearing.

/13046

CSO: 3400/706

BOWIER ON NEW INFORMATION MINISTRY POLICIES

Monrovia NEW LIBERIAN in English 7 Apr 87 pp 1, 3

[Text]

Information Minister J. Emmanuel Bowier has said that he would move "vigorously" to make the Ministry more functional and efficient.

He expressed determination to bring more credibility to the Ministry and ensure that discipline, hard work and integrity become the hallmark of its employees.

Minister Bowier made the statement yesterday when he officially took over the affairs of the Information Ministry from out-going Minister S. Momolu Getaweh who was appointed Director-General of the Cabinet in a Cabinet reshuffle recently.

Mr. Bowier said he would "waste no time in putting things in their right places" at the Ministry, and urged employees to cooperate and work hard.

He said that there would be no room for

"idleness and inefficiency" among the employees and emphasized that he would "run the Ministry in accordance with its policy and function."

Minister Bowier said he would stamp out "all mal-practices and other acts that tend to hamper the smooth operation of the Ministry."

The Information Minister said he would encourage the free flow of ideas and information from the employees, and called on them to make meaningful suggestions concerning the smooth running of the Information Ministry.

He however emphasized that he would not encourage any "sycophancy" among the employees, and stressed that he would not hesitate to "publicly point out" employees that engage in rumour

mongering and the spread of false information.

Minister Bowler later thanked President Samuel K. Doe for his preferment, and expressed the will to do his "utmost to uphold that confidence."

Earlier out-going Minister Dr. S. Momolu Getaweh welcomed Mr. Bowler and introduced him to the staff and employees as their "new minister", and urged them to cooperate with him in his efforts to make the ministry "more efficient."

Dr. Getaweh said his tenure at the Ministry was "characterized by love, friendship and hard work." He said he would always cherish his days as Minister of Information.

A gift was presented to Dr. Getaweh by Ms. Nora S. Johnson, the Personnel Director, on behalf of the Ministry, while Ms. Edna James gave him another from the Fanner Bees.

/13046
CSO: 3400/701

FINANCE MINISTRY AUDIT ORDERED ON PAYROLLS

Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English 12 Mar 87 pp 1, 14

[Article by James Seitua]

[Text]

In an effort to further reduce the wage bill of government, the Ministry of Finance has begun a "physical audit" of the payrolls of all government ministries and agencies. In recent times a Finance Ministry spokesman has said there is an "alarming increase in the wage bill of the Liberian Government".

In an exclusive interview with the Daily Observer at his Broad Street office Tuesday, the Comptroller at the Finance Ministry, Mr. Wallace H. Powell, noted that the objective of the salary reduction and redundancy of civil servants exercises in 1985 was to reduce Government wage bills and make salaries current but, he added, "this has not been achieved".

"Reports have reached us that most, if not all, those declared redundant have returned to government payroll", Mr. Powell said.

The audit exercise, which kicked off at the Finance Ministry last Tuesday, is being carried out by a special pay team set up by the Finance Ministry Comptroller's office, Mr. Powell noted.

During the exercise, employees will have to be properly identified by their sectional heads before checks are disbursed, while those in LPA will be identified by

both their sectional heads and their vendors before payment, he added.

Mr. Powell said the exercise will be done at random and each ministry or agency to be visited would be served a short notice.

What the Finance Ministry hopes to achieve from the exercise, Mr. Powell said, is to remove all "ghost names" from the payrolls and to determine whether there exist justifiable reasons for returning the payroll cost to the level at which it was after the redundancy exercise which is estimated at 25 per cent less the present payroll cost.

Asked who could be held responsible for the alleged reinstatement of redundant employees since their employment documents pass from their employing agencies through the Budget Bureau, Civil Service to the Finance Ministry, the Comptroller said the problem could be human related. "Those of us who have the responsibility to manage the system,

perhaps, do not have the sense of urgency that is needed to get those documents processed," he added.

When asked to comment as to how successful he thought the exercise would be since previous ones failed, Mr. Powell declared: "This is a better time to succeed. Before, there were several developments such as student riots, the November 12, 1985 incident, etc. that forced our attention from the concern of payroll padding to matters of greater concern. But time is more stable now."

At a later time, the Comptroller said, he will fully address himself to the impact of the wage bill on the financial stability of the country.

In recent times, the Liberian Government has taken several measures to make current the salaries of its employees.

In the early 80s, the government introduced the Savings Bond Scheme which compelled each Liberian

employee to invest one month salary or two months salaries, depending on the income of the individual. At the point of maturity which starts 1987 to 1989, investors would receive their capitals with interest. But it is not known whether anyone has benefited from the scheme.

The institution of the Saving Bond Scheme was followed by a series of salary reductions. Presently, civil servants' salaries are reduced from 41 per cent to about 50 per cent.

The last measure the Government instituted to reduce its wage bill and to make salaries current was a mass redundancy exercise which affected hundreds of civil servants.

However, all the measures seem not to have achieved their desired results, as civil servants' salaries are still in arrears. Presently, the Ministry of Finance is paying civil servants for December, 1986.

/13046
CSO: 3400/711

BESTMAN CALLS FOR 'FISCAL DISCIPLINE'

Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English 6 Apr 87 pp 1, 3

[Text]

Finance Minister, John Bestman, says Liberia's economic plight could be overcome through fiscal discipline in the public sector and commitment for economic growth and development.

He said fiscal discipline was the only "weapon" which would help to improve the economy, and that it was necessary that "war" be declared on this economic plight for the betterment of the nation.

Minister Bestman was speaking on Friday at the Executive Mansion when he spoke on behalf of himself and his colleagues on the occasion of the induction ceremonies of cabinet ministers and other government officials. About 149 government officials, including ministers, deputy ministers, advisors and managing directors and their deputies were commissioned.

The Finance Minister, who was seen beaming with smiles, then called on all Liberians at home and abroad as well as foreign friends to "enlist" themselves in this "army" to combat the present economic predicament.

He noted that President Doe being the commander of this army, and with the total support and commitment of Liberians, he (Dr. Doe) would direct them on the battle field to achieve victory in the "shortest possible time".

Min. Bestman, who has been in government service for the past 25 years, pointed out that if success was achieved in this endeavour, the honour would go to the President, but if they failed, they would be blamed. He was serving as Governor of the National Bank prior to the recent reshuffle.

He further warned that anyone who fails to join this army to fight the economic plight of the nation, would be considered an enemy of the Liberian people and would be treated like an enemy of the people.

Pledging their support, Minister Bestman assured President Doe that they (government officials) would work assiduously for the enhancement of government's development goals, especially in reversing the present trend of the nation's economy. He thanked Dr. Doe for the confidence he continues to repose in them.

/13046

CSO: 3400/702

EDUCATION MINISTRY ANNOUNCES SCHOOL FEE REDUCTIONS

Monrovia DAILY STAR in English 13 Mar 87 p 2

[Text]

The Education Ministry yesterday announced a reduction in fees for public schools, beginning academic 1987.

An education ministry release issued here said elementary school students in Monrovia will now pay 5 dollars per year, while students attending elementary schools outside Monrovia will now pay 3 dollars per year.

It said students attending government junior and senior high schools in Monrovia will now pay 15 dollars per semester, while a fee of 10 dollars will be paid by junior and senior high students in the rural areas.

The release said

no fees will be charged for kindergarten students throughout the country.

The reduction comes in the wake of several appeals from students, parents and the public for a reduction in fees previously announced for public schools.

The release said fees now charged are for registration and other administrative fees and not tuition as was previously announced by the ministry.

Meanwhile, the Education Ministry has announced a 50 per cent reduction in the prices of elementary textbooks. A new price list would be published soon, the release said.

COURT OFFICIALS ASSURED OF PROTECTION

Monrovia NEW LIBERIAN in English 3 Mar 87 pp 1, 8

[Article by G. Kparcon Nardoh]

[Excerpt]

Chief Justice James N. Nagbe has assured court officers in the country of full protection of the Judiciary against any form of molestation by higher-ups in the discharge of their duties.

Counsellor Nagbe said hereafter, the Supreme Court will ensure that sheriffs and bailiffs serving precepts from the courts are not treated with discontent by party litigants.

Justice Nagbe gave the assurance earlier this week when sheriffs and bailiffs assigned at the Temple of Justice in Monrovia, led by Montserado County Chief Sheriff Jimmy Garley, met with him to acquaint him with problems they have been encountering with some government officials while on official duties.

/13046

CSO: 3400/708

TUBMAN ASSURES WORKERS OF FAIR TREATMENT

Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English 2 Apr 87 pp 1, 10

[Text]

"I will use all my skills and ability in this job in order to ensure that workers get a fair judgement in all their instances in the country since they play a significant role in the society."

This was the sentiment expressed by Mr. Robert Tubman at the Ministry of Labour on Mechlin Street, Monrovia, yesterday, when he officially took over from his predecessor Mr. John Mayson, as minister.

Mr. Tubman said that labour is one of the most important elements in the economics of any society; hence workers are entitled to fair treatment for their efforts.

Thus, as an economist and because of the confidence the President of the country continues to have in him, Mr. Tubman expressed satisfaction over his appointment as Minister of Labour.

"I have come with an open mind, and I hope to learn from all of you, since I will always call on everyone of you for your assistance", he told the employees. He assured them of their various positions and said that he would count on their contributions to bring about fairplay to the workers.

Mr. Tubman thanked his predecessor, Mr. John Mayson, for the able manner in which he

had handled the Labour Ministry over the years. Expressing confidence in Mr. Mayson's ability and experience, he hoped that the outgoing minister would always make himself available for regular consultations, "since I would call on you at all times."

Welcoming his successor in an earlier statement, Mr. Mayson said that he was pleased that a competent person was taking over the ministry.

Pointing out that work at the Ministry of Labour was not that easy, he said: "It would take you the peace of job, the wisdom of Solomon and the strength of Sampson to be able to keep up with the work".

He mentioned that the ministry has a competent staff with whose level of contribution and cooperation and the support of President Doe he had been able to run the ministry during his tenure as minister.

On behalf of the staff of the ministry, Mr. Stephen H. Kolison, Sr., Deputy Minister for Planning and Human Resources Development, welcomed the minister and pledged their fullest support and cooperation during his administration.

He, however, urged him to be "firm and fair during your administration. We will work together for the success of us all."

/13046

CSO: 3400/702

UNDP LAND STUDIES AGREEMENT SIGNED

Monrovia DAILY STAR in English 17 Mar 87 pp 2, 4

[Text]

The Ministry of Agriculture and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have signed a 2.8 million dollars agreement for a "land capability studies."

Under the agreement signed here Friday, UNDP will provide experts, equipment and training opportunities for Liberians to "do land and soil capability studies in the country."

It said UNDP would provide \$2m, while the Liberian government would contribute \$800,000.00.

The UNDP Representative to Liberia, Dr. Francis Blain, signed for his organization,

while Agriculture Minister, S. Gblorzuu Toweh and Planning Minister, Paul Jeffy signed for the government.

Speaking during the ceremony, Minister Toweh said there was "excellent relationship" existing between Liberia and UNDP, and hoped such relations would continue.

He said the coming of the UNDP to "our aid by providing funds and experts to assist us" was timely with the government's launching of the Green Revolution.

Mr. Toweh later appealed to other United Nations agencies to assist

Liberia bring self-sufficiency through its Green Revolution program.

For his part, Dr. Blain said his organization was pleased to assign this programme to Liberia, adding, "In order for the Green Revolution to succeed, there is a need for land and soil feasibility studies."

He thanked the Ministry of Agriculture for participating in the formulation of the "document for the soil feasibility studies."

According to Dr. Blain, the agreement is being sponsored by UNDP, FAO and Liberia.

/13046
CSO: 3400/675

NEW LAND AGENCY ESTABLISHED

Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English 17 Mar 87 p 3

[Text]

An indigenous entity has been established in Monrovia to conduct research and investigation on land matters.

The entity which is to be known as the Land Research, Investigation & Promotion Services Agency (LIRIPSA) is scheduled to commence operations on April 1 this year with offices on Broad Street.

According to the proprietor and General Coordinator of the agency, Mr. G. William Walters, LIRIPSA will, among other things, work towards the protection of land buyers against land fraud; make ar-

rangement for land purchases, provide demarcation and survey services; locate missing parcels of land and probate deeds and lease agreements.

These activities of the agency, according to Mr. Walters, will be facilitated through research, and the assistance of government entities, including the Probate Court and the Ministry of Lands, Mines & Energy. Survey matters will be conducted by a team of surveyors.

The proprietor of the agency previously worked as Executive Director of the Rent Control Commission.

/13046
CSO: 3400/701

MARITIME AFFAIRS BUREAU ON MODALITIES TO ATTRACT VESSELS

Monrovia DAILY STAR in English 31 Mar 87 pp 8, 7

[Article by Francis S. Paye]

[Text]

The Bureau of Maritime Affairs in Liberia has begun working out modalities whereby it could put an immediate halt to the declining rate of Liberia's Maritime fleets as well as to increase programs of Maritime vessels worldwide.

Making the disclosure yesterday in an interview with the DAILY STAR, the Commissioner of the bureau, Mr. George B. Cooper, said the new move would attract more vessels and maximize government revenue intake. He noted that, "This bureau is one of the major contributors to the Liberian revenue."

Mr. Cooper noted that because his bureau has planned several infra-

structural development programs that will boost the Liberian economy, the team, headed by former Finance Minister, Mr. Robert Tubman, influenced several shipowners during their recent visit to Hong Kong, Seoul, South Korea, and Tokyo, Japan with brief stop-over in Peipai where he said, they met and discussed with the President of the Japanese Shipowners Association, Mr. Kimio Miyaok and the Director General of the Association, Mr. Isaku Yamaot, including some officials on Liberia Maritime policies.

Commissioner Cooper also confirmed that because of the talks, two Japanese shipowners

registered with the Liberian Bureau of Maritime Affairs, while others promised to visit Liberia shortly in order to study the modalities.

Mr. Cooper further stated that the Liberian delegation also informed the shipowners that Liberian shipping registry is expected to freeze its reduced fees.

He said, the fees now charged by the Liberian Maritime Bureau are quite acceptable to shipowners.

In a related development, the bureau has appealed to interested Liberians to enroll at the Maritime School recently established in Margibi County.

MCSS STUDENTS ISSUE POSITION STATEMENT

Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English 3 Apr 87 pp 1, 9

[Article by John F. Lloyd]

[Text]

Barely two weeks after their teachers commenced a stay-away action to press several demands, students of the Monrovia Consolidated School System (MCSS) have declared to government that they can no longer bear to be deprived of their education. They therefore called on government to resolve the teachers' issues for the resumption of classes for academic '87.

The students under the banner of the MCSS Students Union (MCSS-SU), noted in a statement that government's failure to meet the demands of teachers "seems to be nurturing grounds for another March 18 episode", adding that it was the same condition which gave rise to the nationwide student demonstration on March 18 last year.

In the statement, signed by MCSS-SU secretary-general, Cyril Howard, the students urged government to also consider the recommendation from the National Student Union (LINSU) that all public school students pay the fees of \$2.50, \$5, and \$10 for the enrollment in junior and senior high schools, respectively.

They observed that it is disheartening that "poor students pay exorbitant fees in public schools only to be entangled in the cob-web of frustration".

They attributed their plight to the failure of government to lay grounds to avoid the delay and interruption of classes in public schools, and called on the Liberian Chief Executive to intervene in the current crisis.

The MCSS students also pointed out in their statement that education is a right to be enjoyed by all and not an exclusive few, and called on their colleagues in private schools to join their struggle by initiating appropriate action to help remedy the situation. "

History has a peculiar way of repeating itself to those who refuse to learn from it", they reminded private school students.

Teachers of MCSS schools who were to resume classes on March 23 in accordance with the Ministry of Education official calendar for '87, declared in a position statement last Thursday that until MCSS can provide improved school facilities, absorb students of lower-level MCSS schools, provide transportation for teachers, and pay salaries for the months of January and February 1987, among other things, there would be no resumption of classes at MCSS schools.

The Ministry of Education last Tuesday disbursed salary checks to teachers for the month of January 1987 and appealed to teachers to return to classes, but the teachers refused at a meeting last Wednesday, saying that they stand by their vow not to return to classes until "all" of their demands are satisfactorily addressed.

/13046

CSO: 3400/675

DOE APPOINTS COMMITTEE TO REVIEW STUDENT POSITION

Monrovia DAILY STAR in English 20 Mar 87 p 2

[Text]

Dr. Samuel K. Doe, President of Liberia and Visitor to the University, has appointed a special three-man committee to review the position statement presented to him by the Executive Committee of the University of Liberia Student Union (ULSU).

This disclosure was contained in a letter sent to ULSU President, Samuel K. Woods, II, by Mr. Yancy Peters Flah, Deputy Minister of State for Administration. In the letter dated March 12, 1987, Deputy Minister Flah said that he was appointed as chairman of this special committee. He, however did not name other members of his committee.

Concluding his letter, Minister Flah assured the ULSU president that "the committee is currently meeting, and you shall hear from me in due course."

It can be recalled that on January 30, 1987, the 5-man Executive Committee of ULSU, under mandate from the university student populace, had an audience with President Doe in his Executive Mansion office, during which a 12-page position statement on the general problems of the University of Liberia was delivered to him.

Among issues raised in the union's statement were the government's financial

support for the university, the planned tuition increase, the problem of commuting students to and from the Fendall Campus, the reopening of the University dormitories, accountability at the university and a ten million dollar fund drive. Others are the reconstitution of the Board of Trustees, the resurrection of the Faculty/Staff Development Program, the paving of the road running through the Agriculture College campus to the Science Complex and the provision of on-the-job training opportunities for engineering and agriculture students of the university.

/13046

CSO: 3400/701

UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION OFFICERS INSTALLED

Monrovia NEW LIBERIAN in English 17 Mar 87 p 3

[Article by Gabriel S. Nyanfor]

[Text]

Officers of the University of Liberia Students Union (ULSU) were last Friday inducted into office by Arch-Bishop of the Catholic Church, Michael K. Francis.

Those inducted were Samuel K. Wood President; Mr. Larry L. Youngquoi, Vice President and Mr. Anthony V. Kesselly, Student Representative to the University Council.

Administering the oath of office, Bishop Francis praised the UL Students Union for maintaining peace and unity among students at the University, and urged the new officers to put God above all things in order to achieve their goals.

He said as the nation's future leaders students throughout the nation should strive towards academic excellence to boost

the nation's educational system in the years ahead. He then urged them to do away with political activities that could retard their efforts.

In remarks, University of Liberia president, Dr. Joseph Morris thanked the ULSU for uniting students and for promoting respect for the University rules and regulations, thereby strengthening relations between the faculty staff and student body.

Dr. Morris reaffirmed his administration's commitment to cooperating with the student government.

He praised the efforts being made by the Liberian Leader Dr. Samuel K. Doe to improve the institution which he said is currently on the verge of collapse due to financial constraints.

In his inaugural address, ULSU's President Samuel Wood, pledged his government's determination to work with the administrative staff in order to make the nation's highest learning institution a better place for learning.

He then appealed to the university administration to consider the student union government as the sole representative of the student body.

Also speaking at the occasion, Deputy Information Minister for Research and Planning, Mr. Paul Allen Wie, who deputized for Information Minister Dr.S.Momolu Getaweh, praised the student union for its role in maintaining peace at the University of Liberia. Minister Wie assured ULSU of his Ministry's assistance and pledged \$50 on behalf of his ministry.

/13046
CSO: 3400/705

STUDENTS EXPRESS CONCERN OVER ARRESTS IN NIMBA COUNTY

AB041808 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1710 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Six more persons have reportedly been arrested and detained in Nimba by joint security in the county. They have been transferred to Bong and are now in detention in Salala without charge. The president of the Nimba University Students Association, Niamia Wampie, made the disclosure over the weekend when the association presented a resolution to the senators of the county. The arrest of the six follows the arrest and detention a few weeks ago of 14 citizens of Nimba by joint security in the county. Mr Wampie alleged that the six persons, whose names were not disclosed, were picked up in Botuoh-Niaklan-Zoke District recently while practising karate as a means of recreation. According to the Monday's edition of the DAILY OBSERVER, the six citizens were subsequently arrested by soldiers on grounds that they were practising karate to overthrow the government, as the student leader explained in their resolution. The students spoke of constant state of harrassment, intimidation, and the recent rate in arrest of peaceful citizens in Nimba County. They further stated that if the situation were not investigated and prompt attention taken, citizens of Nimba may flee Nimba to other areas for security protection.

Meanwhile, receiving the students' resolution, Senator Hilary Gomble thanked the students for the manner in which they were following the case and promised that the Nimba legislators would do everything possible to secure the release of those detained. He also promised to present the students' resolution to the Liberian Senate tomorrow for redress.

/12858

CSO: 3400/686

POLITICAL PARTIES SPEAK OUT ON RECONCILIATION PROCESS

Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English 9 Apr 87 pp 16, 26

[Text]

"Our concern, as a government, created to serve our people, is not to continue to dwell on the trials and errors of the past. Our concern now is to put behind us the unfortunate circumstances of the past and to immediately begin to translate into realities the hopes we raised and the promises we made.

"We will pursue a systematic course of national unity, eliminating all actions and tendencies that divide us. In this, one of the highest virtues is forgiveness."

With these words, uttered in late 1980, the process of national reconciliation was confirmed by the then Head of State and Chairman of the People's Redemption Council, Samuel Kanyon Doe.

Since then reconciliation has been a national process — a united effort — in the struggle of the Liberian people to heal the wounds of the past and build a nation on goodwill and understanding.

Immediately after the April 12 seizure of power in 1980, the meaning of reconciliation embraced a more limited yet far-reaching connotation. It was a confidence building device used to restore confidence in the people and to demonstrate confidence and goodwill of the government to the people.

Many Liberians had fled and had continued to flee the country. Others were deeply resentful and harboured ill-will; thus a way had to be found to bridge the gap and "eliminate all actions and tendencies" which were dividing the nation.

The government, for its part, needed to demonstrate goodwill to all and prove that it was pursuing a course of national unity. Political prisoners were gradually released, efforts to improve the internal conditions were made, exiles were invited to return home and some were offered posts in the new government and soldiers who continued their harassment were punished. Thus, since April 12, seven years ago, reconciliation has always been seen as a necessary factor in the restoration of normal intercourse in the country between government and its citizens.

One major step in the reconciliation and reconstruction process has been the move towards constitutional rule which was considered a burning desire of all the Liberian people. Thus up to 1984, the government had achieved a large measure of success in bringing about reconciliation to the point where conditions in the country had stabilized and confidence restored for the reinstitution of political activities.

Having built up this climate of confidence which saw an interaction of people of varying political views in

the making of the Constitution and then in the Constitutional Advisory Assembly, it became the conviction of all that the process of reconstruction could now proceed without much conflict and sorrow. Political parties were formed, candidates were selected, campaigning was carried on — a campaign, which unlike those in any other country, was not without its bitterness, its slanderous moments and mud-slinging period.

After the elections, however, that atmosphere of brotherhood and climate of joint concern shown for the national interest became a necessary factor once more to build the nation.

Despite the outcome of the elections, despite the suspicions and bitterness, reconciliation became the major pre-occupation of political and church leaders; that is, until the intervention of the November 12 incident.

But even as the November 12 incident began to recede into history, the President seized upon the moment to hold the olive branch of reconciliation when, on inauguration day he declared that "History bears witness

to the fact that no nation has ever prospered in disorder.

"If Liberia is to be great, the process of reconciliation must never be obstructed again. I pledge the New Republic will emphasize reconciliation, reconstruction and rehabilitation as its major objective.

"Today, we must therefore put aside our differences whatever they may be; we must submerge our various partisan beliefs under the Supreme Party which is the Republic of Liberia.

"In spite of our political affiliation, social or economic background, age or level of education, let us close ranks, and fight only when external aggression engulfs us."

This message sounded the clarion call for national unity after the November 12 incident, but since there were a number of political leaders in jail awaiting trial for their alleged involvement in the November 12 abortive coup, it was generally felt that this call should have been backed by some action.

This action came in 1986 when all the political prisoners were released, a general amnesty declared. Subsequently, the country was gripped by an euphoric atmosphere when it was learned that under the auspices of the Liberian Council of Churches leaders of all political parties had met to discuss reconciliation. The exercise proved futile after several meetings. A group of leading citizens calling themselves the Goodwill Ambassadors undertook the task of sponsoring reconciliation and again their hopes were frustrated by the hardening of the positions of all sides.

The failure of these efforts has led us to examine the reconciliatory moves and to wonder just what is holding back the tide of reconciliation when all parties are agreed there is a need for reconciliation.

Perhaps we are expecting too much too soon; perhaps we expect too much from one side while refusing to yield to make necessary concessions for the good of the national interest. Perhaps, we expect too much out of reconciliation.

Citing her views on reconciliation, Miss Miatta Sherman, acting chairman of the National Democratic Party of Liberia (NDPL), notes that it is "not the cure-all nor the be-all of our national problems. It is not a panacea nor a magic formula which will suddenly bring us all together. Such things only happen in story books, or utopia." But, she continued, nor is "reconciliation as far-fetched or recondite as some politicians would have us believe...it is a very dynamic process and should be re-defined."

Miss Sherman holds the view that our approach to reconciliation "should be much more realistic and productive based on common sense; what we first need is to look for the areas of mutual interest" and she goes on to lament that the "opposition's first attitude" is to "kill any area of bargaining when they do not recognize the government." What then do we have in existence, if you do not recognize the government? No Government in power is going to stoop and just apologize", she states with a certain degree of emphasis and conviction.

If there is any element of apology in the process, she says it should come from all the politicians who did not educate the people sufficiently enough in the political process.

The Liberia Action Party (LAP) is all for apology as a first step. Speaking with its Chairman, he defines reconciliation as a settlement or adjustment of disagreement and differences. "The process to such a settlement is first of all for parties who

have wronged others to admit their wrong, compensate for that wrong and make a definite promise not to repeat such wrong." To this, Miss Sherman retorts, "We will not stoop..."

At reconciliation talks, some of the opposition parties have insisted on the need for re-election — first they wanted re-election on a general basis, now some are asking for partial re-election. But can an election cure the ills which now exist? Would not a new campaign tend to re-open the old wounds and further polarize the nation? We do not suggest that if wrongs were made, we should acquiesce in a cover up and go on with business as usual; rather, we need to carefully examine whether cooperation, the establishment of goodwill, the building of confidence are not more important at this stage than going through a political replay.

But LAP goes on to assert that "we simply want the due process of law to prevail in this country because when this is done, nothing else is better than it. Under the due process of law, genuine reconciliation can take place."

Mr. Matthew of the United People's Party takes a more pragmatic view. He first looks at apology within the context of the religious definition of reconciliation which does not square with the political terminology.

Mr. Matthew observes that "the church views reconciliation as something that entails penance so that one with a contrite heart must admit to wrong-doing; whereas, national reconciliation in political terminology would imply accommodation entailing concession in return for support or cooperation.

"In politics," he goes on, "what one would perceive as wrong-doing could be acts of expediency; therefore, politicians cannot apply the religious meaning of reconciliation."

Mr. Matthew then outlined certain steps upon which the road to reconciliation should be based: 1. "Concede that Dr. Samuel Kanyon Doe, the Standard Bearer of the National Democratic Party of Liberia (NDPL) is President. 2. That the other parties will at least cooperate with the government in order not to guarantee its failure; 3. That there should be a clear commitment to obey the constitution; to obey the spirit of the multi-party framework. 4. That there should be an open line of consultation with the opposition so that contentious issues may be resolved in the background before decisions on significant issues are made or done."

Miss Sherman feels, however, that the necessary first step is confidence building through interaction, talking even on an informal level. Mr. Matthews agrees with this, but he feels that the President should take the initiative because party officials talking together will not solve issues.

As things now stand, negotiations with that party (NDPL), Mr. Matthews points out, is not necessarily conclusive if the agreement is consummated with the chairman. "There is the overriding issue of President Doe himself proving that outside the military form, he is able to resolve crucial political issues of a civilian setting.

"Therefore," he continues, "it is in his interest to assume this and since he contends that he is the President — a contention we do not contest — then he must begin to assume his leadership responsibility by going out and personally negotiating settlements."

Then Mr. Matthews points out that President Doe has to avoid being the only President in the history of this country other than E.J. Roye who, after a year in the presidency, has not obtained the tacit consent of the opposition. Thus, he too

stresses "confidence building as part of the reconciliation process."

He then suggests that the President should come up with a "National Plan with the opposition input. As for me and my party, we are more concerned about a multi-party success than in holding any kind of public office."

But the Chairman of the ruling NDPL holds a different view. She says the President is not chairman of the party. "What we can do is to start by just beginning to talk to each other on party leadership level. We should develop regular intercourse and when there is a common ground for the parties to work together the President then can come in."

For the Unity Party, despite its belief in the process and being the only party which has attended every meeting held in the effort to restore or bring about national reconciliation, it now says "the prospects are bleak until the ruling party changes its attitude towards the process."

It speaks of continued harassments at checkpoints and the "fraudulent interpretation" to the people of the actual results of the 1985 elections. However, one of its leaders declares, "We have asked for nothing — only for a decent life for the Liberian people because we as a party feel that we can not build the nation on hatred. We need to get together and salvage the wreck, but there are some elements who thrive on the differences which exist in the country today."

We are reminded here that after the American Civil War, the process of reconstruction — the restoration of normal relations between the states and the Union — took twelve years beginning 1865 and ending in 1877. Liberia has gone through seven years of reconciliation with some drawbacks and unfortunate

interventions. Today, we are faced with a common danger — economic collapse — and in the words of Baccus Matthews the other parties should at least cooperate with the government in order not to guarantee its failure. Interpreted differently, it means that we are all in this boat together and cannot sit and see it sink.

Politicians need to take a broader view of the reconciliation process and see it as a necessary factor towards the improvement of conditions in the country.

The Liberia Action Party is itself an example of the ill-effect of the stalemate. Asked why LAP is playing such a low profile these days, its chairman declared, LAP is not drawing back or becoming inactive. The only thing is that the conditions are not created for anyone to act as they should. LAP does not have a party headquarters right now because no one wants to give us a house that may be subsequently vandalized and destroyed. This represents the state of affairs in the country today.

Earlier in the year when President Doe held his press conference, he was asked about a new consignment of military hardware which was imported recently. The President told newsmen that there was information of an invasion threat, therefore some arms had been acquired to protect strategic areas in the country. Meanwhile, there are critics who hold the view that money for arms should be spent on other essential needs of the country, like education, agriculture and development.

In an interview with the Acting Chairman of the NDPL, she pointed out that there are some elements in the country who do not wish to cooperate, they "just hope for another invasion and pray that it succeeds". Such feelings together with the attitude and movements of some exiles abroad create an

atmosphere of insecurity in the country and forces the government to beef up its security.

Political science teaches that during period of insecurity, governments necessarily spend large sums of money on arms for protection which invariably results in lesser attention placed on consumer products.

The tightening of security by the government may be made at the expense of education, agriculture and development, but it means also that the threat of an invasion or constant rumour of such a threat, whether imagined or real, can be removed by building up confidence and searching for ways whereby the government and the opposition can cooperate. They must find

common ground. They must see themselves as committed to the national interest whether in power or out of power. There must also be attempts at reconciling the exile elements. They must be discouraged against capitalizing on current difficulties at home.

Reconciliation must be blended with a clear commitment to cooperate with the government and the government must be seen committed to obey the constitution and live up to the spirit of the multi-party framework. This process involves all Liberians whether at home or abroad, for as long as some elements at home depend on those abroad to come as saviours we shall remain in a state of flux getting nowhere. In this seventh year, we should

begin to truly reconcile one with the other and look at the larger issues which are there to unite and build.

Many of the proposals initially presented by the opposition for reconciliation talks have so far been met — the right to travel, return of passports to citizens and the release of political prisoners. Yet, the people continue to wait for a major breakthrough. Perhaps we need to stage a football match between the opposition parties and the ruling party. After all, the first breakthrough in U.S.-China relations was the staging of a ping pong game. Today, Sino-American relations are blooming. After seven years, we wait for that breakthrough.

/13046

CSO: 3400/704

LEBANESE BUSINESSMEN ON ECONOMIC REVIVAL

Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English 20 Mar 87 pp 6, 19

[Article by Mlanju Reeves]

[Text]

"Mr. Minister:

We regret to inform you about the closure of our corporation because of our inability to sustain normal business operation in the wake of the current foreign exchange crisis..."

Such a letter is no longer strange to Liberian government officials as scores of businesses continue to fold up their operations in the country. Although claims are that commerce in Liberia is dominated by Lebanese traders who exploit the Liberian economy — taking away vitally needed foreign exchange — the Lebanese themselves are of the view that the world of business is competitive and they are not at fault for the burgeoning foreign exchange crisis.

But is the scarcity of foreign exchange the real problem of the Liberian economy, or is it just the end result of a widening trade deficit?

Says Jamil Rajeh, secretary general of the World Lebanese Cultural Union in Liberia

(WLCU): "If Lebanese businesses are taking money out, we are only merchants. We are not taking the resources out; we are reinvesting in the country because of the confidence we have in the Liberian economy..."

Despite the asserted confidence, Lebanese businesses, like other business operations in the country, are struggling with a severe problem of foreign exchange which appears to be greatly hampering the smooth importation of commodities for local consumption.

According to the Ministry of Commerce's annual report for 1986, domestic trade saw unfavorable market conditions due to the foreign exchange crisis. As a result, there was a corresponding upsurge in black marketing. Although the Commerce Ministry report gives no official figures for exchange rates on the black market of

Liberian currency to US dollar notes, analysts say US currency notes are presently being sold for as high as 60 per cent.

However, the Commerce Ministry's report also cites a slump in the US dollar against the Japanese yen and major European currencies as reason for unfavorable market conditions in Liberia last year. The report claims that the dollar slumped by 30 per cent last year, an estimate which economists believe is immensely exaggerated.

Last year alone, the Commerce Ministry registered a total of 2,609 businesses out of which 1,340 were Liberian, an equivalent of 51 per cent of all businesses registered with the ministry last year.

Foreign businesses registered for the same period were 1,140 or about 44 per cent of the total. The number of joint Liberian-foreign partnership businesses were 129 or five

per cent of the total businesses registered last year.

Although the total number of foreign registered businesses was seven per cent lower than Liberian businesses, commerce in Liberia appears to be vastly dominated by Lebanese merchants who own most of the country's main stores, supermarkets, restaurants, logging companies, engineering firms, garages and auto dealing shops.

According to a modest estimate by the Lebanese Cultural Union in Liberia, there probably exist some 1,000 Lebanese businesses across the country, most of which are concentrated in the capital, Monrovia.

But what suggestion do the Lebanese have to help the Liberian economy revive? Khaled Hejazi is a young Lebanese businessman trained in economics in the United States. He believes that massive investment in the agricultural sector is a sure means of generating foreign exchange for the country to emerge from its present economic malaise.

Although there is much talk about mechanizing agriculture, Khaled Hejazi feels that labour intensive agriculture as opposed to capital intensive agriculture (with machinery) will solve the unemployment problem and provide the much-needed foreign exchange. Noting that Liberia is experiencing low prices for its commodities on the world market, Khaled laments that Liberia's marginal propensity to import is greater than its marginal propensity to export commodities — thus creating a severe trade deficit.

With depressed prices for its exports including iron ore, rubber and minerals (gold and diamond, etc.), Liberia

generates very little foreign exchange from its meagre export of cash crops such as palm kernels, coffee, and cocoa. Although efforts are intensifying in this direction to increase the export of cash crops and other items which may some day make the country self-sufficient in food production, Liberia may still be a long way from this goal with an apparent primitive or subsistence economy as opposed to that of an industrialized one.

Liberia's economic problem according to analysts, may largely be due to the fiscal policy of the government. In its annual report of 1986, the Commerce Ministry recommended a review of government's fiscal policy and efforts to improve the liquidity situation.

The Commerce Ministry report also notes that flight of US currency notes which has continued since 1980 poses severe strains on the economy, although there is no indication where the capital is disappearing to.

While Liberians reportedly own the greater percentage of businesses in the country, most of them are on the small scale, such as small shops and vendor activities. The result is a low revenue intake for the government as compared to foreign-owned businesses. In the end, the government has hiked import duties on commodities which are almost imported by foreigners and foreign businesses.

According to officials of the Abi Jaoudi Corporation, which operates two of the nation's largest supermarkets in the country, one way of improving the climate for both consumers and importers of food commodities is the reduction of surcharges and import duties on goods. This will have a two-fold effect: increasing the purchasing power of the consumers and

stimulating the establishment of more businesses in the country.

But government officials feel this will be to the disadvantage of Liberians. Raj Daryanani, office manager of Abi Jaoudi, notes that his corporation is severely feeling the foreign exchange pinch. But he asserts: "We are doing better than before and there is no real problem with business. What we bring in we can sell, but the problem is getting the goods here."

Perhaps the question of the lack of foreign exchange in the country may, after all, be the end result of a chain of problems set off by the inavailability of industries to export more locally produced commodities as finished products. Additionally, the comparative gap between imports and exports may possibly be a major contributor.

But the Lebanese who dominate our economy feel that the economic problems of Liberia are "more or less problems faced by businesses anywhere in the world today."

Says Jamil Rajeh of the Lebanese Cultural Union: "The economies in most countries of the world are facing problems. But we can say that the Liberian economy is better than in most West African countries and we have the belief that the human and natural resources can have a very good impact on the process of economic revival."

Rajeh also attributes the high prices of goods on the Liberian market to what he calls the fall in the value of the U.S. dollar and adds that as far as Lebanese are concerned, they have trust and confidence in the government and the people who handle the economy of the nation.

Some critics are of a different opinion blaming the

government primarily. The government is aware that the onus of the burden is primarily on itself to come up with effective policies and programs that will be implemented toward economic recovery. Government knows that while it is the task for everyone, the government, indeed, has to take the lead.

/13046

CSO: 3400/709

PLANNING MINISTRY ON DEBT BURDEN, FISCAL REFORMS

Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English 20 Mar 87 p 28

[Article by Lamini Waritay]

[Excerpts]

The Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs has indicated that Liberia's debt burden has reached unmanageable proportions. It stresses that unless Government implements fiscal reforms "to liquidate the ... debt arrears [and] to raise output and productivity in the principal sectors of the economy ...," it will be difficult to achieve economic recovery.

These observations are contained in the Ministry's 83-page Economic Recovery Program (ERP) Report published recently. The report gives an overview of the Liberian economy, highlights "immediate problems to be addressed," outlines the objectives and policy strategies to be adopted, and suggests a strategy for implementing a public investment program.

Noting the worsening debt situation of Liberia, the report states that "the combined influence of

declining domestic revenue and mortgaging of future off-shore receipts to finance current expenditures ... and mounting external debt obligations (have) resulted in debt arrears."

The problem, according to the ERP Report, seems to have started during the late 1970's, when the Government of Liberia "pursued expansionary policies that resulted in large budget deficits, financed through foreign borrowing mainly on commercial terms."

During this period, external "debt disbursed and outstanding more than trebled, from a level of about \$176 million at December 31, 1975 to \$533.3 million at end June, 1980." The OAU conference of 1979 is said to have been largely responsible for this fiscal situation.

But if that was a serious debt scenario, recent figures on GOL's obligations are even more so.

Says the report, "At end December 1985, the stock of debt disbursed and outstanding had more than doubled to \$1,308 million."

The report observes that "lax fiscal discipline, the resulting budget deficits and the accumulation of debt arrears have led to the erosion of Liberia's creditworthiness abroad and to a confidence problem at home."

The Government of Liberia's commitment to the recovery programme as illustrated in its "willingness and readiness to enforce and intensify austerity measures," as well as its establishment of the Privatization Commission, are all hailed as positive indicators of a promising economic environment.

Irregularities

For the recovery to become a reality, however, the report says, the Government would

have to, among other things, optimize resource management, put into concrete action short and medium-term programs and projects that would stimulate growth in the agricultural and mining sectors, and maximize net benefits from multi-lateral and bilateral co-operation arrangements.

These, the report points out, are however short-term recovery conditionalities.

With respect to the export sector, the problem of fluctuations in the country's export prices and export quantities is highlighted. Over the last few years, the ERP report says, "export prices on the whole fell." For example, "The drop in the nominal unit price of iron ore, the earnings of which account for over 60 per cent of total export earnings, continued through 1984 averaging a sales price of \$16.51 per ton and then rising in 1985 by \$0.73."

The report notes that "The biggest drop between 1982 and 1985 occurred in the price of diamonds and logs with a drop of nearly 50 per cent and 21 per cent, respectively."

This situation has greatly affected the country's foreign exchange reserve position, which also, coupled with the "rising rate of inflation," has led to "a reduction in savings and investment, leading to an increasing rate of unemployment and a decreasing rate of growth in national income."

The report also makes clear that the fiscal deficit facing the country had been made worse by the lack of "controls needed to minimize irregularities in revenue collection and administration and reduce the rate of financial leakages.

Political Instability

With respect to the deteriorating investment climate, the Planning Ministry report is equally forthright. It states that "the continuing shortage of Government funds and foreign exchange," is making the implementation of the public investment programme in the economic recovery period very difficult to achieve.

The report suggests that in order to possibly halt what it calls the "eroding investment climate" in Liberia, "a number of economic, social, and political factors need to interact favourably so as to ensure an attractive climate for foreign and domestic investment."

Because of the additional problem of a negative net capital inflow position, the Government of Liberia has been confronted with the difficulties of repaying outstanding debt and mobilizing resources for development.

A little ray of hope flickers in that section of the report which indicates that trade balances have improved with, for example, a trade surplus of \$151 million

registered in 1985. This was due primarily to "a drastic decline in import bills." This hope is however dimmed by a warning that except "drastic measures" are "immediately" taken to reverse the trend of declining gross domestic investment, the situation will get worse.

The ERP report suggests that "any recovery programme would demand the taking of hard options to undertake needed structural adjustments and to address the issues of productivity and efficiency in the mobilization of financial and human resources...rising productivity and efficiency in resource management would gradually build up and solidify a firm foundation for economic growth."

For the economy "to recover over the next few years," says the report, there has to be prospects for increasing public and private investment and for enhancing Liberia's foreign exchange capabilities — the so-called "dependent factors."

The report also notes "the expected growth in the world economy and its subsequent impact on the market for iron ore and rubber, both of which constitute Liberia's key exports." In this regard, it is hoped that by the beginning of 1988, there will be "a corresponding increase in the markets for motor vehicles." This in turn should "increase the demand for tires and consequently for natural rubber."

On the whole the ERP document is a well-thought-out and well-researched analysis of the present economic situation in the country. It minces no words on financial discipline and the need to efficiently streamline the operations of the public corporations. Whether the theoretical analysis in the document will be translated into practical terms remains to be seen.

CERTAIN BUSINESSES EXEMPTED FROM SELLING BAN

Monrovia DAILY STAR in English 26 Feb 87 p 1

[Excerpt]

It has been reported that certain businesses including bars, hotels and restaurants have been granted permission to sell on Sunday in spite of the President of Liberia, Dr. Samuel Kanyon Doe's mandate issued last month to prohibit Sunday selling in the country.

A survey conducted by this paper revealed that night clubs like El Mason on Carey Street, Chase Restaurant and Bar, the King Amusement Center, among others, have received permits from authorities of the Liberia National Police Force and the Monrovia City Corporation to enable

them sell on Sundays.

According to the managements of these businesses, including El Mason, since the mandate by Dr. Doe, they have received constant harassment from members of the security forces, including police, for keeping their businesses running on Sundays.

/13046
CSO: 3400/708

BUSINESSMEN EXPRESS VIEWS ON ECONOMIC SITUATION

Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English 20 Mar 87 p 5

[Article by Clarence Weefur and Lamini A. Waritay]

[Text]

With the current depressed economic situation in the country, a number of Liberian businessmen have been giving their views on various aspects of the economy — from the problem of foreign exchange to that of 'small change'; from privatization to the 'Green Revolution'. In order to get appropriate responses to pertinent questions, a 21-point questionnaire was submitted to persons in both the private and public sectors. Because of limited space, we can bring you only brief excerpts of views expressed by four of the selected respondents on a couple of issues:

On Foreign Exchange

Dr. Christian Baker (The Rooster): The exchange problem is chaotic. Businessmen pay between 15-45 per cent for foreign exchange. The cause can be found in poor liquidity, lower prices for primary products; solution: more exports and improvement in the politico-business climate.

Dr. Chris Toe (LPMC): Cost of obtaining foreign exchange through banks is very expensive. Problem can be traced to internal financial mismanagement, reduction in international prices for Liberia's exports; most of the foreign exchange is repatriated or is held by individuals in the country; some are put in black markets.

Mr. David Jallah (Liberian Chamber of Commerce): The problem is due primarily to the surrender of the 25 per cent off-shore earnings by the major exporters of Liberia's raw materials; the result is that some businesses without their own external resources are closing down; Solution: Liberians will have to improve their export-earning capability.

Mr. Moses Kettor (Cooperative Dev. Agency): The Foreign exchange situation is terrible. The cause is due to slow economic productivity, lack of confidence in the economy and severe economic policies. The result: it has caused huge financial flow from most of the people we administer in

the hinterland. Solution: increased productivity by investing in the productive sector; Government must change some of its economic policies.

On 'Small Change'

Mr. Jallah: What needs to be done is either to remove the 5-dollar coins from the market, or mint some change money in proportion to the amount of 5-dollar coins on the market.

Dr. Baker: Mint more 'small change'.

Mr. Kettor: Whenever Government finds it necessary to pump some coins into the market, 75 per cent of the amount should be in change coins. This would mean withdrawing some of the 5-dollar coins from the market to make the system work.

On Privatization

Dr. Toe: Privatization of public corporations could improve the operational efficiency of these institutions. Those corporations receiving subsidies from Government should be the first to be privatized. However, national security interests should be safeguarded in the process.

Mr. Jallah: Privatization will greatly improve the services these corporations render; revenue generated from these corporations will be enhanced due to improved management techniques which, hopefully, will be adopted.

Dr. Baker: It will enable public corporations make profits, pay taxes, and render better services.

Mr. Kettor: I do not buy the concept of privatization. I don't think Liberians could afford to buy the already dying public corporations. (And) with our present tax policy, foreign investors with a profit motive will exploit the Liberian people.

On The 'Green Revolution'

Dr. Baker: Scrap it and replace it with a realistic program.

Mr. Jallah: It must be properly organized and totally depoliticized. This is not the first time this idea has emerged in Liberia. President Tubman's 'Operation Production' 1960; President Tolbert's 'Self Sufficiency for Self Reliance' in the 1970's; (All) these failed because they were not properly organized.

Dr. Toe: Get the program out of the public arena like Ministries. Create pricing and other incentives for farmers. Improve the transport system to reduce marketing costs; improve coordination, both in research and extension.

Mr. Kettor: To make it work, Government must provide (1) farm tools and implements (2) technology, education and training (3) make use of existing farmer organizations (4) means to control pest and reduce spillage (5) technicians (and experts) and assign these to public-owned farms.

On Liberianization

Dr. Toe: 'Liberianization' is a word that has outlived its usefulness.

Unless private Liberians can establish their own businesses, you cannot retain foreign businesses by forcing them to employ Liberians. In addition, we have to be sure Liberians possess the required skills.

Mr. Kettor: It is a failure. Many businesses owned by Liberians are not primary. As a result, most needed capital has always flown out of their hands to the locally-based expatriate suppliers.

Mr. Jallah: It has not only been a failure, but a disaster (as well). Certain businesses are restricted to Liberians, but because the Liberians do not have the capital, they are simply used by non-Liberians as fronts.

Dr. Baker: Government needs to get serious about Liberianization if they really mean it.

On How To Improve Liberia's Current Financial Situation

Mr. Kettor: Liberians must strive to involve themselves into all businesses, if not control them. The average Liberian must change his idea of reliance and dependency, to self-reliance and increased productivity.

Dr. Toe: Businesses and Liberians can help to improve the situation by going to the banks for all monetary transfers and by doing away with the parallel market or 'black market'.

Dr. Baker: Liberians should produce for export, and buy local products.

/13046

CSO: 3400/706

EFMC REPORT OUTLINES FACTORS IN ECONOMIC DECLINE

Monrovia DAILY STAR in English 6 Mar 87 pp 8, 7

[Text]

A central factor responsible for the decline of the nation's economy has been largely attributed to the "progressively more unsustainable budget deficits which have averaged \$108 million over the last nine years (1978 - 1986)".

An Economic and Financial Management Committee (EFMC) reports released in Monrovia yesterday also said the causes of the nation's economy vary and include low prices for the country's major exports and a massive external debt burden on which payments are over \$400 million in arrears.

The EFMC reports is a detail background on the recent visit of U.S. AID Administrator Peter McPherson, and the agreement reached between the Government of Liberia and the United States of America at the time.

The committee, in its reports observed that the steady decline in the economy of Liberia in recent years has affected the living standards of virtually the entire population.

"Real per capita" Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has fallen by an average of seven percent a year since 1979, while private sector employment is down six percent over the same period. At the same time, both imports and exports have dropped significantly, the report revealed.

It further explained that health and educational

facilities have deteriorated as economic conditions have worsened and that Liberia has been unable to pay its debts to domestic creditors, whether public employees with salary arrears or banks with excess domestic reserves, or to international financial institutions, including the United States of America.

"Efforts to substantially reduce these deficits have however, been recognized by such institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank as the key to a broader economic recovery", the EFMC report said.

The report further disclosed that during the visit of USAID Administrator, McPherson, to Monrovia February 8-10, an agreement was reached with the Liberian government on a new economic reform framework which will permit the United States to assist Liberia with its recovery program.

This, it said, has two aspects. The first, according to the committee, is a series of five fiscal and budgetary reform measures aimed at stabilizing budget operations and eliminating the deficits which have exercised a major adverse impact on the overall economy.

The second aspect of the program is a financial management partnerships whose primary objective is to rationalize and strengthen the management and control of public sector resources.

Under this pro-

gram, the committee release said the U.S. will contract for and finance an agreed-upon number of operational experts to assist the Liberian Government in the implementation of the fiscal reform program. These financial experts will work with senior Liberian officials in the Ministry of Finance, the National Bank, the Bureau of the Budget, and the Ministry of Commerce.

"They will jointly verify that financial expenditures which conform to budget specification and will institute a computerized record system of revenue and expenditure control. Significant training activities will accompany the experts' own efforts," it said.

The EPMC further said a successful multi-year financial partnership will institutionalize effective

ive fiscal controls and thereby lay the basis for a broad-based economic recovery.

Such system should also re-establish the level of confidence required for the involvement of other donors and creditors in

the recovery effort and to both retain and attract private investment. "Liberia's significant natural resources and its robust private sector represent important sources of growth which should exert a stronger influence with a stabilized budget." If successful, it said, this program should also arrest the declining living standards of our people.

"This will be a difficult program to carry out. It has the President's fullest support and endorsement, and we are therefore optimistic that it will succeed," the report concluded.

/13046

CSO: 3400/711

LINSU SPOKESMAN ON UNION'S ORGANIZATION, POSITIONS

Monrovia DAILY STAR in English 5, 6 Mar 87

[Interview with D. Dougbeh Nyan, Deputy Secretary of the Liberian National Students Union, by Tana Wolokolie; date and place not specified]

[5 Mar 87 pp 5, 7]

[Text]

QUES: Mr. Deputy Secretary, may I first of all ask just what exactly is LINSU?

ANS: Well, LINSU is the acronym of the Liberia National Students Union, a union that was given birth to by an Act of the National Legislature of Liberia on January 25, 1957. Of course let me hasten to add that this was in no way an act of benevolence on the part of the National Legislature assembled; the birth of this union was indeed a unique outcome of the efforts and struggle of student democratic forces in the country. At the time of its inception, it included students at the University of Liberia and the Cuttington University College (then Cuttington Divinity School). It was a struggle launched by our founding fathers in accordance with our guaranteed rights to independent association as embodied in the organic law of the land. LINSU is the sole and authentic representative and foremost organizer of students across the face of the country. It champions, defends, protects and promotes the rights, interests and aspirations of students in their academic and life pursuits.

In short, LINSU is an organized expression of the genuine aspiration of students for democratic education, peace and social progress.

QUES: LINSU is now thirty (30) years old. Can you in brief enumerate what her achievements have been over the years?

ANS: Well, as you know, Nkrumah once said, "Don't judge your people by the heights they have reached but by the depth from which they have come." Proceeding from this dictum, we say boldly that the path has not been rosy for LINSU; it has been very painstaking and one of veritable hardship and undertakings. This path had been twisted and rendered crooked by the schematic designs of forces not just anti-students, but anti-people as well. And look, not just is the path we walk made crooked, but rabid attempts have also been concocted to twist our very efforts away from the objectives we proclaim for the good of the student community.

Notwithstanding, however, we can boastfully point to what we cherish as lofty achievements in the bitter history of LINSU. The very formation of LINSU in itself is an achievement in the life of the students of this country. Years following, LINSU established a school - the Student Union Institute - where a bulk of the underprivileged sons and daughters of our people enrolled to learn. This school was up to secondary level. With LINSU

they have a potent voice in pursuance of their interests.

The successive efforts of LINSU epitomised by reorganizing the first Congress held in April of 1979 constitute another landmark in the life of LINSU and students of this country. LINSU has created in the students of this country the will to initiate self efforts aimed at defending the interest of their people as well as theirs. The issue we have tried to emphasize is that the existence, just the very existence of LINSU, constitutes a significant milestone for us as students. Why, I guess you may ponder?

LINSU stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the people of this country in 1979 to demonstrate their disfavor and discontent with the Tolbert regime's anti-people policy of increasing the price of our staple food - RICE. True to its democratic nature and character, LINSU sought to establish democratic structures and institutions in order to enhance and promote the total participation of the student majority in its working process.

Before the advent of the 1980 coup d'etat, partially successful efforts were made in establishing regional or county unions and broad administrative structures for the advancement of wider possibilities for broader student involvement in the activities of LINSU. Understandably, this was shortlived.

LINSU, after the first Congress, assumed a definite national democratic character. It struggled to propagate and to assert a true sense of nationalism, patriotism and democratic virtues among students. It appealed to students to descend from their ivory towers of academic arrogance and pomposity to the level of identifying themselves with the cause of selfless devotion to the service of the people for national progress. Now, you can vividly see the honorable posture as adopted by LINSU.

In the hey days of the 1980 coup, precisely on May 5, 1980, students from around the country converged on the grounds of the Executive Mansion. Led by LINSU, a package was presented to the erstwhile People's Redemption Council, for its consideration. That document speaks for itself.

Today, we are proud to say that LINSU has established regional member unions in nearly all the counties. LINSU now has a National Headquarters on Camp Johnson Road. Already LINSU calendars are now out and seen on walls in many homes. I can not go on and on, but with pride I can say that these are just but the modest achievements of the Liberia National Students Union.

QUES: There is a phrase on the calendar about plans towards the second Congress of your union. When is this to be held?

ANS: Actually, this year marks another significant period in the life of LINSU - the year of the second Congress of LINSU. Before answering your question let me first highlight to you the significance of this historic event. The Congress of LINSU is the highest decision making forum of the union and determines the general policies, programmes and guidelines for the union's functioning activities. At this forum, student delegates from their various institutions and organizations or unions assemble to review the work of the union over the past years, deliberate on matters of relevance to the union's progressive advancement, democratically elect new leadership of the union and chart a new course for the wholesome functioning of the union. So you can see that this is the major election year for students all over this country.

The Interim National Secretariat presently responsible to conduct the day-to-day affairs of the union has presented a package of proposals to the Executive Committee for its consideration. In this package is a proposal to hold a congress in mid-July of this year. The final details will be worked out and adopted by the Enlarged Interim National Administrative Council (EINAC).

QUES: You earlier talked about LINSU holding a national congress this year. Can you say what preparations you are making for the holding of said congress? And where do you intend to hold the congress?

ANS: I am glad you raised this issue. Our congress is to be held this year. At this moment, every material and energy resource is being

expended in preparatory activities leading to the congress. We have begun to mobilise the needed material, financial, and spiritual requirements for the launching of a successful congress.

Indeed, several steps have been and are being taken. Our focus has been firstly -to create the necessary awareness among the students about the congress in order to encourage their participation as this is within the framework of their organizational responsibility and rights. In this regard we have embarked on launching a series of functional events and activities leading to the next congress. Already, we have stated our successful efforts at creating regional unions in almost all of the 13 counties some of which are the Students Union of Bong - SUB, Margibi Students Union-MASU, Students Union of Nimba-SUN, Cape Mount Students Union-CAMSU, Bomi Students Union-BOMSU, Grand Gedeh Students Union GGESU, Students Union of Montserrado-SUM, amongst others.

Secondly, a program of events has been drawn up and adopted by the Interim Executive Committee defining preparatory activities and events towards the congress. Perhaps it is necessary to catalogue a few of such activities:

The month of March has been launched as the Month of Albert Porte, in remembrance of the immortal ideals and contributions he made to the struggle for national democratic transformation.

The Month of April has been marked as the National Reunion and Peace Festival

of youth and students. Already, a National Festival Preparatory Committee (NFPC) has been set up to undertake preparatory functions for holding the festival. Let me just add that this committee is not only limited to students and youth groups and their organizations, but also other national professional organizations such as the Press Union of Liberia, Liberia Association of Writers, Union of Liberian Artists, etc.

The month of May will be marked by the holding of leadership training workshops and the convening of mini-congresses within the counties. These are among the basic activities to be undertaken.

As we undertake these planning efforts, we have received an invitation from the Student PUGWASH USA International Students Conference to attend its Fifth Conference to be held at Stanford University, Palo Alto, California, USA. The thrust of this conference is to draw together students of graduate and undergraduate statuses, and professional students of all disciplines to deliberate on relevant scientific, technological, and environmental problems. Topics to be discussed include: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MEDIA; WATER, POLITICS, POLLUTION AND SUPPLY; NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL OF ATOMIC ENERGY, amongst others. LINSU takes keen interest in this conference and all attempts are being made to honor the invitation through our participation. TO BE CONTINUED

[6 Mar 87 p 5]

Ques: Recently the National Legislature passed a joint resolution revoking the articles of amendment of the National Union of Liberian Teachers (NULT), hence debarring her from operation. What is LINSU's view on the ban? And do you envision a ban on your organization also?

ANS: Not at all. Why should we envision a ban? What is the logic behind your question? Are you suggesting that with the ban

of NULT, LINSU follows next? Well, we have no reason, not even an iota, to perceive of a ban or any design with any legal coloration to revoke or nullify the Legislative Enactment that brought us into being as a legal institution. If anything of such nature is being calculated we think it to be illegal and unconstitutional and therefore such design will be met with our full resistance.

We are convinced that the students of this country are prepared to resist such ban with all their might and courage. And I think this position must be underscored that we will surely stand up in defence of our constitutional rights.

In response to your first question, we view with interest the decision of the National Legislature to ban NULT. We are of the opinion that, given the organizational dynamics, it is the teachers in this country that can rightly decide what to do relative to the ban. But let me just say that NULT, if I should call them that name, has now taken a decision on the matter. Just two days ago, LINSU was invited to a NULT meeting at which time they discussed with us developments relative to the ban. They acknowledged us with a decision to agree to operate under their original name - the National Teachers Association of Liberia (NTAL). This is, as we understand, the assumption of the Legislature. We want to say here that we appreciate the decision of the teachers. We hold that the right for an independent organization to individual citizens and professional groups such as teachers, cannot be over-emphasized. It is only hoped that calculated attempts are not being made to strangle and paralyze and hence render voiceless the teachers of this country. This we think will in no way be in the interest of the people, teachers and students of this country.

QUES: What is LINSU's position on the recent decision of government to impose tuition on public school students?

ANS: LINSU views this question with the most urgent concern. It certainly constitutes one of the pressing items on our agenda now. Already, we have re-

ceived scores of delegates from regional member unions expressing concern over this matter. It is important to indicate that as a consequence of our concern, the Interim National Executive Committee has taken some preliminary steps in ensuring that this decision is not enforced.

One of such steps is that we have communicated with and expressed our views to the Minister of Education. While the minister has not shown convincing interest in discussing this matter face-to-face with us, we are determined to exhaust all possible avenues.

On the other hand, we have met and have had intensive frank discussions with the Senate Standing Committee on Education. Our position has been crystal clear on this matter. As you may know, the committee has promised to get back to us. However, we are happy to note that the decision to impose tuition is being resented not only by students, but also their poor parents who are totally unprepared to bear such additional burden, given the national economic squeeze.

We must make it clear that our opposition to the imposition of tuition is grounded on the fact that education in our country must be given increasing priority. This means that education must be financially supported by the government of this country. Besides that, given the persistent economic hardship in which the parents of this country find themselves, it is unrealistic that they can afford any further frustration imposed on them.

But all that is happening in our country today only shows that education is at a critical crossroads needless to say. University education is becoming unbearably, unreasonably expensive.

Already, there is an imminent 100% tuition increase at the University of Liberia. This, too, has claimed our attention and we have accordingly met with the University authorities. The implications of the problem with the public schools and the University of Liberia are very clear. Thus, we call on all Liberians to add their voices to the cries of their brothers and sisters in the student community in opposing and resisting any imposition and/or increase in tuition.

/13046

CSO: 3400/710

PARASTATAL MANAGERS ON IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES

Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English 20 Mar 87 pp 12, 19

[Article by S. Vaanii Paasewe II]

[Text]

In the last twelve months, the role of public corporations and their overall performance and impact on the national economy has been a subject of much debate. In both government and private circles, it has been argued that the overall performance of the sixteen public corporations has been poor and that they have consumed too much public subsidies.

It has been observed also that the viability of these public corporations in the future will depend largely on sound management of their financial resources and the observance of austerity measures which may not be compatible with liberal budgetary traditions within public corporations.

Others have suggested that to remove the burden of subsidies on government in the operations of these parastatals and in order to ensure efficiency, public corporations should be fully or partially privatized.

Although this suggestion has implications for the managerial efficiency of public corporations, some of the managements have come in full support

for the privatization drive. But while the details of the privatization scheme are still being formulated, some of the public corporations have been reordering their priorities and have shown much improvement in the last twelve months.

What are the strategies of these corporations? What are some of their problems and prospects? To find out, the Daily Observer put these questions to the various management.

LWSC

Since the inception of the new management under Mr. Peter K. Bimah, Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC) has seen a sharp improvement in its service to the public and at the

same time the corporation has come a long way from near collapse to greater financial efficiency.

For once, the corporation has been able to operate in the last twelve months without salary arrears for employees and without government subsidies. The overall operational cost of the corporation has fallen sharply and LWSC checks are now acceptable to local and foreign suppliers.

All these have been possible in a short time because the new management recognises that viability of any enterprise depends on sound financial management and honesty. The Act creating the corporation chartered it to operated profitably in providing water for

rural and urban areas. This cannot be achieved unless it generates adequate revenue.

The operation must therefore cut down losses, operational cost and ensure the efficient collections of bills. This is what the corporation has been doing. As a result, LWSC's major international financiers have developed confidence in the corporation. In this regard the LWSC and the World Bank signed a loan agreement in October 1986 on which the corporation is now drawing; pipes and fittings are also to be supplied under the new arrangement.

The corporation, nonetheless, could be much more viable had there not been recurrent problems. The main problem confronting this corporation is the over 5,000 illegal connections hooked to the corporation, accounting for 40 per cent loss in water.

There are also the huge arrears which government and other major consumers owe the corporation. The outstanding amount is over 35m dollars and is backdated to 1975. Some of these arrears may not be recovered because some of the customers are no more or the structures through which the debts were incurred are also no more.

~ Further losses are incurred through faulty plumbing. Customers normally buy their plumbing materials from dealers who sell sub-standard

wares. As a result, the water system has experienced leaks which hamper water production. In this regard, the corporation has plans to submit a recommendation for the passing of a plumbing code which will ensure that materials used are not sub-standard, especially in government constructions.

To ensure that the best materials are available, the LWSC may be given a hand in the implementation of the plumbing code as the corporation has great and rich experience in plumbing.

On the ongoing privatization drive of parastatals, the management of LWSC is fully in agreement with the policy. Observing that most corporations are run on foreign loans and assistance, the management believes that government should not have monopoly on the appointment of management personnel to these parastatals.

LEC

According to the records provided by the public relations department of this corporation, LEC has in the last year been able to carry out its mandate of providing electricity for Monrovia and its environs, thereby enriching the lives of over 100,000 families. At present the system has over 3,000 meters representing legal customers using the power generated by LEC.

LEC has been able to provide the necessary power for the country

through the rehabilitation of its plants, including the Mount Coffee Hydro, and its Luke plant units. The corporation presently generates 170MW but uses about 60MW for Monrovia and parts adjacent.

Besides, the corporation also generates nearly 13MW of power for out stations in the rural area.

Despite this bright outlook the corporation has still had to supplement its operational costs with government subsidies because of the numerous problems confronting the system. In the last twelve months the corporation has had to cope with a system loss of over \$3m due primarily to power theft, failure of customer to pay their bills regularly and through system interference.

There are over 1,500 illegal connections hooked to the corporations lines. This combined with the failure of customers to meet their bills regularly account for nearly 35 per cent of loss in intake.

Another 15 per cent loss is experienced through the direct interference in the system by unscrupulous employees businesses and individuals.

Government agencies too have contributed to the problem by not paying their bills regularly. This is what has made the burden of subsidies from government heavier.

To minimize or stem loss, the management has approved a new block mapping project aimed at

identifying illegal services for subsequent disconnection and possible reprimand where necessary.

At the same time customers are being encouraged to pay their bills and to avoid quack technicians in wiring their structures. On system interference, the management has also been appealing to the public not to engage in any act which will hamper the smooth functioning of the corporation.

These problems aside, the LEC has been able to maintain nearly 1,500 employees and its trade with external organizations or suppliers is current.

LPMC

The Liberia Produce Marketing Corporation. (LPMC) historically had a monopoly on the purchase of coffee and cocoa for export. As such it has served as the main purchasing and marketing

agency of these agricultural crops which account for a substantial percentage of our export earnings.

However, since 1986 the number of approved buyers has expanded and private firms have been authorized to purchase and export these commodities.

Accordingly, the projected sales/exports for the twelve months ending March, 1986 is 10,651 metric tons of coffee (as compared to 5,134 metric tons the preceding year). This year's export may increase as the quota awarded Liberia by the International Coffee Organization, of which Liberia is a member, was suspended in February 1986.

Local farmers are being encouraged to increase production of high grade commodity. Incentive for such has been provided in the form of regular release about the price structures on the world market.

In addition, LPMC sells rice for local consumption, while at the same time, the corporation acts as government agent for the importation of rice. This role may increase as Government's Green Revolution policy takes root.

The main problem which the corporation has had to persistently deal with is the fluctuating price system on the world market. The management has been an active participant at international conferences aimed at establishing acceptable prices for agricultural export crops.

Another problem is related to upgrading the varieties of coffee and cocoa and the processing of storage facilities. In this regard, the corporation has established storage and processing facilities in at least two producer regions.

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CSO: 3400/708

TAX REVENUE COLLECTION SCHEME LAUNCHED

Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English 6 Apr 87 p 12

[Text]

The Real Estate Tax Division of the Ministry of Finance is launching a nation-wide real estate tax enforcement and assessment campaign in an effort to boost government revenues.

Mr. Cooper W. Kruah, Deputy Commissioner for Real Estate Tax Division, disclosed this Friday at the Finance Ministry, when he briefed tax officers who would carry out the exercise.

To make the campaign successful, Mr. Kruah said a one-day symposium on real estate tax collection will be held simultaneously in the various counties on Wednesday, April 8, 1987. The purpose of the symposium is to provide adequate public education on real estate tax collection.

While in the counties, the tax teams would work with their local

counterparts to identify all real properties that fall within the real estate category, make assessments, prepare bills and enforce actual collection.

The campaign, which officially begins on March 9, 1987, will last for two weeks, Mr. Kruah said, adding that the period would be extended if the need arises.

Mr. Kruah also said the exercise would enable the teams to prepare a master tax roll for each county which, he noted, is very necessary for effective tax collection.

This latest tax enforcement campaign comes in the wake of reports that there is a serious decline in revenue collection. According to the Finance Ministry's 1986 report, actual revenue collection last year registered at \$172m, the lowest in five years.

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CSO: 3400/704

AHMADIYYA MUSLIM LEADER ON ECONOMIC RECOVERY ASSISTANCE

Monrovia THE MIRROR in English 7 Apr 87 pp 1, 4, 8

[Text]

The Chief of the Foreign Missions of the world-wide Ahmadiyya Muslim Movement, Mr. M.A. Saqi arrived in Monrovia at the weekend to hold discussions with President Samuel K Doe on how best the Movement could cooperate with the government's economic recovery program.

A release from the Secretary General of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association of Liberia Mr. Muhammad Yartey said Mr. Saqi's discussion will touch on assistance in the areas of agriculture, religious instruction, education and medical facilities, among others.

The visiting Ahmadiyya leader will also call on key government officials to acquaint them with various cooperation proposals approved by the Supreme Head of the Ahma-

diyya Muslim Movement, Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in 108 countries including Liberia will celebrate the founding of the movement in 1989 in their respective countries, the release said, adding that the centenary occasion will be used to examine the social and welfare plans in each country to supplement government's efforts in that direction.

Commenting on the decision of the Education Ministry to teach both Koran and Bible literature in the schools, Mr. Saqi commended the government for such initiative since Comparative study of religion will further promote understanding and peaceful co-existence of citizens.

Mr. Saqi , now based in London, is the first Ahmadiyya Missionary who resided in Liberia from 1960-69. He was a notable religious journalist who was known for his regular Friday columns on various

topics of interest of the Islamic religion in Liberian newspapers and broadcast media.

He founded the Mission in Liberia and helped to establish two schools in Largo and Sanoyea in Cape Mount.

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CSO: 3400/712

REPENTANCE MUSLIM LEADER ON PROMOTION OF ISLAM

Monrovia DAILY STAR in English 23 Feb 87 pp 1, 7

[Text] The leader of the Repentance Muslims in Liberia, Iman Abdullah Amjad Tunis, II, has called on Muslims in the country to use Islam to educate their fellowmen, rather than exploit them.

He said the teaching of Islam condemns exploitation, adultery, lies and power consciousness," adding that any Muslim engaging in these acts would be disobeying the precepts of Islam.

Delivering his sermon at a ceremony marking the second anniversary of the introduction of the Repentance Muslims

sect in Liberia, Imam Tunis said unlike Christian leaders who engage in the education of their followers, some Islamic leaders use the Muslim religion to exploit others.

He observed that although Christians and the followers of Mohammed landed on the Liberian soil at the same time, Islamic leaders have not made any effort to educate Muslims and promote the Islamic faith in Liberia.

He said it is time that Muslims get together to promote Islam in Liberia, adding, "Our neglected brothers who have been educated by Christians cannot come back to us due to our own

failure to accept them."

He admonished Muslims to do away with criminal activities and adultery, which he said were great sins in the sight of Allah.

He said although the Repentance Muslims were being tortured for their belief, "We thank our enemies whose plots and lies have helped to improve our knowledge and understanding."

Meanwhile, Imam Tunis has expressed gratitude to the President of Liberia Dr. Samuel Kanyon Doe, for allowing the Repentance Muslims to operate in the country.

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CSO: 3400/712

LAWYERS CONCERNED OVER DISMISSAL, REDUNDANCY WAVE

Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English 2 Mar 87 pp 1, 10

[Text]

Two prominent members of the Liberian National Bar Association have decried the current wave of illegal dismissals, redundancies and retrenchments in the country.

Counsellors Winston Tubman and Philip A.Z. Banks raised the concern Friday at the first quarterly assembly of the National Bar Association held in the Supreme Court chambers at the Temple of Justice.

Discussing the topic "Some Problems Of Labour Relatiing to Redundancy And The Retrenchment Of Workers", the counsellors in separate statements observed that in recent times, workers were being retrenched without prior notice.

They said in this "downward sloping economy" of ours, it is befitting that the Labor Ministry counter-checks "management and worker relations"

to determine where new legislations could be made to protect the rights of the worker.

They observed that investors were leaving the country, more than ever before, adding that as a result of this, labor problems were increasing. They, therefore, recommended that statutes concerning redundancy should be improved.

The two counsellors have, meanwhile, appealed to the business community to help the national government with its foreign exchange problems in order to boost the economy.

Also discussing the topic "Paper On Marriage", Counsellor Pearl Brown-Bull called for the separation of civil and customary marriages, adding that law makers should not meddle with the laws concerning the two marriages. — LINA

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CSO: 3400/675

ECOM CHAIRMAN ON RESCHEDULING OF CHIEFTANCY ELECTIONS

Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English 17 Mar 87 p 8

[Text]

The general chieftaincy election which was scheduled for March 28, 1987, has been rescheduled for June 14, 1987, ECOM Chairman Randolph has announced.

He told a news conference on Friday that because of the extension, March 30, has been set as the deadline for the submission of applications, and that on May 15, duly qualified candidates would be declared to contest the election. He added that campaign would also be declared officially opened immediately thereafter.

Under the cancelled timetable, January 15, 1987 was set as the deadline for the submission of applications, while the official opening of campaign should have started February 25, 1987.

Speaking at the Commission's headquarters in Monrovia, Chairman Randolph said after a nationwide tour and a careful study of the electoral process, the Commission was convinced that all requirements to overcome some of the problems confronting the process have not been met.

"There are still no candidates for chieftaincy positions in some areas; dubious means employed by some candidates to defeat the corrected; our people are not fully adjusted to the new changes adopted and are not adequately educated to the various methods and orientation which would positively cultivate their political minds," Mr. Randolph said.

He added: "They need time to understand and accept the various methods designed to replace their head counts system."

Chairman Randolph said the chieftaincy election was rescheduled for these and many other reasons.

/13046

CSO: 3400/702

GENERAL GLAY CAUTIONS MEDIA ON REPORTING

Monrovia DAILY STAR in English 3 Mar 87 pp 1, 7

[Text]

The Senior Aide' Camp to the President of Liberia, B/Gen. Alfred T. Glay, has advised the Liberian press to maintain balanced and factual reporting to avoid confusion in the society.

He said as "watch dogs" of the society, the press must always report on only what is true and proveable.

General Glay sounded the warning over the weekend in an interview with the DAILY STAR in Monrovia following a news report that he flogged referee Clay Gibson at the Antoinette Tubman Stadium after the

Grand Gedeh-Rivercess football match in the current county league.

He said such news report was designed to discredit his integrity as well as to create panic, confusion and misunderstanding among the Liberian citizens.

He said that the responsibility of the press in any nation should be to help government in promulgating development programs.

He then stressed the need for the formulation of programs and activities that would awaken the consciousness of the journalism profession in the country.

/13046
CSO: 3400/707

GENERAL CRAIG COMMISSIONS OFFICERS

Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English 31 Mar 87 p 3

[Text]

Officers of the Armed Forces of Liberia have been urged to do those things that will bring credit to the military organization.

The urge was made by the Armed Forces Director of Staff, Brigadier General Moses Craig, when he commissioned three army officers to various ranks, a Defense Ministry release disclosed.

General Craig told the officers that personnel selected within the AFI for promotion shows that they have

shown sense of responsibility and diligence.

He said that "being commissioned does not mean you should stop your good work", because he added, "there are others that will be watching you to emulate your good example."

Those commissioned were, Lieutenant Colonel J. Larky Pearson, Artillery Advisor, AFI as Colonel; Major David Q. Nimley, Commander, Fifth Battalion, as Lieutenant Colonel; and

Captain Amos Y. Lombaye, Assistant Adjutant General, AFI as Major.

Responding on behalf of himself and fellow honorees, Colonel Pearson asked General Craig to convey their thanks and appreciation to the Commander-in-Chief, Dr. Samuel K. Doe; the Minister of Defense, General Allison, and Lt/Gen. Henry S. Dubar, for the confidence reposed in them.

They promised to remain loyal and patriotic soldiers.

/13046

CS0: 3400/709

DUBAR ON ROLE OF ARMY UNDER CIVILIAN RULE

Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English 15 Apr 87 p 5

[Interview with Lt Gen Henry S. Dubar, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Liberia, by Mlanju Reeves; Apr 87; place unknown]

[Text]

Q: The role of the military in times of war is clear. But there has been a lot of dispute over what that role should be in times of peace. In a nutshell, could you outline the peacetime program of the Liberian army?

A: During peacetimes, we prepare for war. This is the primary role of the army — to defend, protect, uphold, and safeguard the sovereignty of the country...So everyday training is our basic objective. But in the case of the Liberian army, we do both training — preparing for war — and at the same time do civil works such as agricultural projects, building bridges, etc.

Q: The return to the barracks: Politically we have returned to civilian rule and it was thought this would be accompanied by a physical return of all military personnel to the barracks.

One year after civilian rule, we still see soldiers roaming about with arms. Could you explain the reason for this?

A: In my understanding, which I think everybody will share my view, the return of the military to (the) barracks simply means we have relinquished power to civilians. We are no more in authority...We are subject to civilian authority. But our objective is to protect, defend and uphold the sovereignty of this country. Now our duty is to protect government properties — government ministries (and other buildings) such as (the Ministry of) Finance, (the Liberia) Telecommunications (Corporation), (The Liberia Broadcasting System) Radio stations, and Information (Ministry). So if you see a soldier, he is assigned to the Defense Ministry or he

is assigned to (the Barclay Training Center) BTC, or the (Executive) Mansion...or to protect Legislators at the Capitol Building. And so every soldier you see in town is not loitering. They are assigned and performing duties...But they do not have power to judge (civil) cases or to open courts for themselves

Q: It is said that Liberia has a military strength of about 6,000 men. Can we expect a growth in the short-run? How will this affect the military budget of the nation?

A: Well, I cannot comment on that (first part of your question). No man in this world wants to remain as he is. Everybody wants to improve. So as the economic situation of the country improves, we want to improve the army also.

Q: President Samuel Kanyon Doe is a man who comes from a military

background. What is the present state of relations between the army and him?

A: President Doe is a product of the Defense Ministry of which we are proud—for a soldier to become president of the nation. At the same time he is the commander (in chief). By virtue of the constitution of this country, once you are President, you are also the Commander-in-Chief and so...the relationship between him and the army is in the superlative degree.

Q: What in your opinion is the role of the army in civilian politics and how does this role differ from that of an era of military government?

A: Well, in a military government, we make decisions, and the Head of State and Commander-in-Chief, together with military ranking officers, makes decisions. In civilian government, we do not participate in the decision-making. We only implement decisions which are given to the Defense Ministry. Now our role in civilian rule: We are now engaging in agriculture works, civil works and not only military training...

Q: A Non-aggression Pact has been signed among Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. What can Liberia expect from this pact and to what extent is the Liberian military involved in it?

A: Well, we expect a lot of things. If the Non-aggression Treaty had

been in effect, the abortive invasion (of November 12, 1985) would not have happened as it would not have encouraged dissidents to stay in one country and plan (an invasion) against another. That is one aspect of it. Regarding the attempted coup in Sierra Leone, at the moment, if those implicated are trying to run to come to Liberia or if they are already in Liberia by way of jumping the border, they would definitely be apprehended and sent back to (President) Momoh to be prosecuted. We will not allow dissidents to use our grounds to plan against countries (which have signed the Non-aggression Treaty). Regarding what happened in Sierra Leone, if it were an invasion, we would have sent troops to protect (President) Momoh. But it was internal; we had no business to interfere.

Q: As a general in the Liberian army, how do you normally react to news and rumors of coups and countercoups in Africa?

A: Well, as a leader, you should say. As leaders, we should not over react to rumors. We should not be excited by situations. If there is a rumor, make sure you get that information, assess and evaluate it, and if you derive a positive answer, you react. So I don't over react. Like the situation in Sierra Leone, all I did was to have a conference with

my top military officials to further protect our borders, so that dissidents will not come across. This is not something to get excited about. It just requires proper planning.

Q: It has been confirmed that Liberia has received weapons from socialist Romania. Does this in any way imply that further military assistance from the Eastern Bloc or Socialist countries will be welcomed by Liberia?

A: Liberia is a sovereign country. She has the right to purchase arms from any country. And so I don't see any problem. Our purchasing arms from Romania does not mean a political turn.

Q: Liberia has had a military treaty with the United States which debars the government in Monrovia from entering into a military agreement with any other state without the consent of Washington. Is this accord still in effect?

A: The defense treaty between the United States and Liberia is still in existence. In fact it has further been improved. Originally, it was (renewable every) three years...now we have raised it up from three to 10 years.

Q: Liberian-Israeli ties have grown close in several areas including the security field. Does this signal that there could be military advisors in Liberia other than the Americans?

A: No. Only the U.S. military advisors assigned to the Defense Ministry.

Q: How old is the Liberian army? How did it start and what in your view is its present status?

A: The Liberian army or frontier force, as it was first called, was established in 1908 as a constabulary force merely to collect revenue and guard (the nation's) borders against neighboring countries. It was merely a ceremonial type of army — to receive dignitaries, bury government officials and other dignitaries including octogenarians. Now the Liberian army is a fighting army

/13046

CSO: 3400/705

UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES VISITS TETE

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 6 Apr 87 p 1

[Text] United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Jean-Pierre Hocke yesterday went to the province of Tete where he observed the situation of displaced persons in that part of the country; these people had fled from the destabilization operations and from natural disasters.

In the evening, Foreign Affairs Minister Pascoal Mocumbi gave a dinner in the commissioner's honor which was attended by other members of the country's government.

In his address, Pascoal Mocumbi welcomed the fast response from the United Nations high commissioner for refugees in an effort to familiarize himself with the situation of displaced persons in Mozambique.

The chief diplomat said that the problem of the displaced persons is beyond the capacities of Mozambique which will continue to make every effort so that these people may as quickly as possible resume production for their own subsistence and for the market.

Minister Mocumbi once again blamed the destabilization promoted from the outside against Mozambique as the fundamental cause leading to the existence of a large number of refugees.

Jean-Pierre Hocke in turn said that the fast response to the invitation from the government of Mozambique, through the foreign affairs minister, to visit Mozambique, reveals the interest and concern of the Office of the High Commissioner as regards the problem of the displaced persons in Mozambique.

The United Nations high commissioner said that he views with much apprehension the operations carried out by external forces to destroy the effort being made by the Mozambican people to build their country.

Jean-Pierre Hocke also gave assurances that the Office of the High Commissioner will do everything to help the Mozambican people build and develop its land.

5058

CSO: 3442/142

SPORTS COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH BULGARIA

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 24 Mar 87 p 7

[Text] New areas for increased cooperation in sports between the People's Republic of Mozambique and the People's Republic of Bulgaria during 1987 and 1988 were agreed on yesterday in Maputo. The arrangement will include formation of teams, exchanges of individuals and information, material assistance, and other aspects. The two countries signed the cooperation agreement yesterday. It was initialed by Jose Julio de Andrade, State Secretary for Physical Education and Sports, and Georgiy Borgov, Ambassador of Bulgaria in Maputo. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Borgov expressed satisfaction with the growth and development of relations between Mozambican and Bulgarian athletes.

The signing ceremony took place yesterday morning at the offices of the State Secretariat for Physical Education and Sports and was attended by staff members of that agency. Under the terms of the accord, Bulgaria is to give Mozambique scholarships for higher education, which was described as being of primary importance for the development of our sports because we still need such graduates to serve as sports leaders.

As regards the exchange of delegations, Bulgaria will send Mozambique some specialists in handball and swimming to teach training courses for Mozambican coaches, as well as track and swimming teams to take part in the celebration of the 25 June and 25 September holidays (Independence Day and Mozambican Revolution Day, respectively.)

The agreement signed yesterday between the State Secretariat for Physical Education and Sports in our country and the Central Union for Physical Culture and Sports in Bulgaria also calls for exchanges of experiences in organizing sports for children, youth, and the general public. It is therefore possible that Bulgarian experience in that realm will be used to good advantage.

Bulgaria will also send our country sports material and equipment for different games, especially soccer, basketball, boxing, track, and volleyball. A computer to store statistical data on the development of Mozambican sports will also be supplied. In addition, it is planned that a Bulgarian coach who has worked in Maputo before will soon return to continue the work he started concerning a study of the National Sports System.

Working to Fulfill the Agreement

The importance of working to carry out the agreement just signed was stressed by Jose Julio de Andrade, State Secretary for Physical Education and Sports, because the program will make a major contribution to the development of our sports. He noted that the plans are part of the excellent relations that exist between our country and Bulgaria, and expressed appreciation for the readiness of Bulgarian athletes to support Mozambique.

In turn, Ambassador Borgov said that the agreement opens up new possibilities in the field of athletic cooperation between the two countries and stressed that this should help to raise the quality of our sports and lead to better mutual understanding between Mozambican and Bulgarian athletes through the exchange of delegations.

12830/12379

CSO: 3442/124

COUNTRY TO PARTICIPATE IN ENGINEERING WORKSHOP IN BRAZIL

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 24 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] The People's Republic of Mozambique will participate with other lusophone countries in the second series of engineering workshops, to be held in Rio de Janeiro from 19-25 April, the AIM reports.

Organized by Clube de Engenharia with backing from the Brazilian Government, these workshops are intended to be of mutual benefit, in addition to establishing permanent ties of cooperation among engineers in the seven countries where Portuguese is the official language.

Topics such as telecommunications, planning, management and utilization of natural resources (water, arable land, forests, and minerals), basic sanitation, industry, and development will dominate discussions at the seven-day workshop.

Mateus Schnaider, President of Clube de Engenharia, assured ANGOP that representatives of Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, and Sao Tome and Principe have already confirmed their plans to attend. A total of 200 African and Portuguese engineers are expected.

Schnaider said that although this second series of engineering workshops is being coordinated by Clube de Engenharia, "the events are actually part of a government's foreign policy program. International relations in the areas of engineering create strong ties between peoples, based on their needs to improve the quality of life," he stated.

The president of the engineers' group maintains that African and Portuguese experience in overcoming development problems is highly important for our (the Brazilian) engineering sector which "although very advanced in many areas, requires the reinforcement and supplementary contributions that exchanges and international cooperation can provide."

"The opportunities for trade and service contracts that will open up as a result of the workshops," he continued, "should be an important factor in participation by Brazilian companies in supporting the event to be held in April at the Hotel Gloria in Rio de Janeiro."

12830/12379

CSO: 3442/124

SOUTH AFRICAN MUSLIM COMMUNITY SENDS FOOD, MEDICAL AID

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 6 Apr 87 p 2

[Text] Last weekend, 200 families, considered to be the most disadvantaged in terms of financial resources, benefitted from a big gift of daily necessities throughout the Mohammedan community of Maputo. The goods were distributed free of charge and went to old people, blind persons, widowed individuals, and all persons considered to be needy.

The Mohammedan community of Maputo distributed about 40 tons of daily necessities to these families, including rice, sugar, oil, wheat flour, powdered milk, canned beans, sardines, condensed milk, and clothing. These products have been estimated at a value of 32,000 rands (more than 3 million meticals).

The families who received these benefits were selected in various mosques of Maputo, including those in the locality of Catembe.

These gifts were offered to the community by a humanitarian organization with headquarters in South Africa, called "Maputo Relief Fund," in cooperation with the "Pretoria Muslim Trust," a Mohammedan religious organization, in South Africa.

The offer comes in response to an appeal made to these institutions by the Mohammedan community of Maputo with the intention of helping some families mitigate their food problems.

The individuals benefitting from this free distribution received 5 kilograms of rice, an equal amount of sugar and corn flour, a package of powdered milk which will yield 10 liters of milk, 2.5 kilograms of wheat flour, 2 liters of oil, sardines, condensed milk, canned beans, and clothing.

As we were informed in the Mohammedan community of Maputo, the products were offered by a group of persons living in South Africa who follow the Mohammedan religion.

More Contributions

As we learned from the management of the Mohammedan community of Maputo, its South African kin have already made available about 20,000 rands worth of medication which will reach the country shortly.

This community also informed our newspaper that this is not the first contribution to needy families who profess that religion. By way of example, we were told that the leadership of the community has a list of 200 families who each month get an amount varying between 2,000 and 3,000 meticals for their subsistence.

In broader terms, although the contribution is not the first to reach the country from South Africa, it is as a matter of fact the biggest one as of now.

The Mohammedan community of Maputo has been distributing gifts in a relatively regular fashion to hospital and prison institutions with a view to attenuating the effects of the serious economic crisis which the country is experiencing and, on the other hand, to enable those institutions to develop their activities in an atmosphere of relative security.

Our source assured us that the Mohammedans of South Africa are now more sensitized to the problem of hunger in Mozambique and that they are consequently more interested in seeing to it that other products will reach Mozambique.

To help in the process of distributing the gifts, two members of the community in South Africa went specifically to Maputo where they supervised the execution of this job.

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CSO: 3442/142

COMMON ENEMY FORCES NEW ERA OF RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA

Lisbon EXPRESSO in Portuguese 7 Mar 86 p 15

[Text] After having visited other Front Line States--Tanzania, right after taking office, and Zambia and Zimbabwe--Mozambique President Joaquim Chissano has been in Angola since Thursday, accompanied by Defence Minister Alberto Chipande and Foreign Affairs Minister Pascoal Mocumbi. Invited by Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the President of Mozambique is initiating a new style of relations between the two countries, relations that have been deliberately cold despite a "common past" as Portuguese colonies and despite both having also endured a common "enemy," the South African regime, which persists in providing aid to the rebel movements attempting to undermine the administrations of both countries.

Apart from these two points in common, links to the past and to the present, Angola and Mozambique officially speak the same language, Portuguese, but have chosen different means of protecting themselves from internal and external threats in the first years after independence--independence which, besides, has followed completely different processes in the two countries. While the regime in Angola survives with the weighty assistance of Cuban troops and counselors, Mozambique has always avoided that type of long-term aid, which compromises a complete "self determination," but there are indications that the fragility of its military defences is making the country increasingly vulnerable. So much so, say many international analysts, that it is no longer a secret to anyone that the regular forces of Zimbabwe not only protect strategic areas (such as the "Beira corridor"), but also take military action against specific targets, such as in the case of the recapture of areas occupied by the RENAMO rebels.

In addition to an offer of assistance from Nigeria, which Maputo has not yet accepted, it can be verified by the statements of Joaquim Chissano himself that Tanzania maintains troops on Mozambican territory, adding its assistance to that of Zimbabwe and Zambia. Speaking at a press conference in Harare before departing for Luanda on Thursday, Chissano was clear in stating that there were Tanzanian troops in Mozambique "to combat RENAMO," a strategy of the Front Line States in the decisive battle against apartheid. In President Chissano's view, the final battle is being fought in Mozambique.

Observers note that implementation of this new relationship between Luanda and Maputo implies that the two countries finally perceive that there are serious motives for them to join forces, in the sense of resolving the problem of the consolidation of the armed groups opposing the regimes installed in both countries, despite no similarities having ever been admitted between RENAMO and UNITA.

It is to be remembered that Samora Machel's own counselor, Aquino de Braganca, had difficulties establishing contacts in Angola not long ago, when he went there on an official mission to try to resolve the differences impeding good relations between the MPLA and FRELIMO.

Besides, all high-level meetings have always taken place under the auspices of multilateral relations: the Front Line, the SADCC, the Group of Lusophone African Countries.

It should be added that it has only recently been disclosed in Lisbon that during a critical moment for the Angolan regime, 1975 to be exact, Luanda authorities transferred \$100 million to Maputo, as a precautionary measure against fear of an invasion supported by Pretoria, money which has remained on deposit at the Bank of Mozambique until such time as it is returned to Luanda.

13026/12851

CSO: 3442/118

EDITORIAL CONDEMNS INHUMANITY OF RENAMO LABOR CAMPS

Lisbon DIARIO DE NOTICIAS in Portuguese 7 Mar 87 p 5

[Text] In those regions of Mozambique controlled by RENAMO one finds forced labor camps where many thousands of persons are being held. This fact, obtained by the correspondent for THE TIMES, is not surprising; the intricate (and inhuman) mechanisms which go hand in hand with acts of war or guerrilla warfare are too well known for this to be considered news. Still, the story appearing in the London daily contributes, in a certain way, to a better understanding of the situation in Mozambique. A bit of reflection, even if superficial and brief, will permit one to draw certain instructive conclusions.

The existence of labor camps, where innocent and defenseless civilians are held by force, is a flagrant violation of human rights, and therefore morally contemptible. There can be no doubt that this is occurring: there is proof. But actions of this sort are even today common across vast regions of the world, particularly in Africa: Apartheid furnishes us a poignant, though not unique example. Besides, such oft-cited cases as Idi Amin or "Emperor" Bokassa do not in fact belong to a remote and forgotten past. The world has witnessed many other similar, if not greater crimes.

However, RENAMO's camps deserve special attention on the part of the Portuguese, for whom Mozambique is not just any country. There are special bonds; we have countrymen working in Mozambique; the kidnappings of Portuguese citizens practiced by RENAMO are now numerous, yet the group has spokespersons in Portugal. All these factors call for a clear and definitive reevaluation of RENAMO. It should be added that, even if it is true that the FRELIMO regime itself is not free of guilt in terms of human rights violations, any immoral act should be judged according to a specific measure, a scale of values--and in that sense, the behavior of the rebels acquires particular significance.

It shows, in effect, the true face of RENAMO. This movement assumes the role of liberator--which is, as we know, a common denominator of all guerrilla movements. However, proof of this claim should be, in every case, confirmed by events, not by words. Consider the fact, then, that a liberation movement, in order to acquire its supplies, enslaves the population that it claims to want to liberate. It is the classic case, unfortunately; but it cannot, for that reason, fail to elicit repugnance, and if anything "positive" can be

extracted from this, it is the definitive proof that RENAMO has no legitimacy whatsoever and that--contrary to what its leaders have claimed--the movement has not acquired the spontaneous support of the Mozambican people.

Those who, for reasons of political affinity or hostile sentiments toward FRELIMO, have viewed the behavior of the rebels operating in Mozambique with tolerance or even with sympathy should, from this moment on, rethink their attitude--or openly accept the fact that they support an organization whose objectives and methods have been shown to be increasingly questionable.

That is because--and it would not be redundant to insist upon this point--as long as attacks on government facilities and on the economy can in truth be considered part of traditional guerrilla strategy (even though the suffering and privations imposed on the populace are, in themselves, reason enough for doubt), the detainment of men, women and children in labor camps--where, besides, they are mistreated if not brutally killed--is something qualitatively completely different; it has another name. And that name is RENAMO. That is also the group's true nature, reason for which it should be denied all legitimacy.

13026/12851

CSO: 3442/118

LANGUAGE FACULTY AT HIGHER LEARNING INSTITUTE

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 6 Apr 87 p 1

[Text] At the start of the second academic year, next July, the Higher Teacher Training Institute is planning to open a School of Languages with courses leading to a bachelor's degree in the Portuguese and English languages, as was revealed by Professor Dr Aniceto dos Muchangos, the president of that institution of higher learning. He added that more schools will be opened gradually along with the development capacities of the institute itself.

The Higher Teacher Training Institute is considered one of the biggest in Africa, holding a position between third and second place; it is the second higher education institution in Mozambique and was established especially to train teachers and other specialists in so-called teaching and education career courses.

It is presently attended by about 100 students, distributed over the schools of education and psychology, history and geography, mathematics and physics; the Higher Teacher Training Institute, better known by the abbreviation ISP, will initiate contacts with schools and college-preparatory institutions in the capital with regard to making a beginning toward the performance of its functions which include providing multifaceted support to schools at the lower levels.

According to information released by that institution's office of the president, a meeting is scheduled for the first half of this month between the academic directorate of the ISP and the offices of the principals of the Josina Machel, Maxaquene, and Francisco Manyanga secondary schools.

This meeting is intended not only to explore the terrain with a view to designating possible areas of action by the ISP but also to lay the foundations for the design of the next school to be created in the future with the objective of providing practical testing for the results of educational research and permitting the implementation of pedagogic practical exercises and training courses for students.

The ISP president felt that the establishment of the next school, included in the organizational chart of this institution, will have to address itself as much as possible to problems of the current situation such as it really is and nothing else because it must provide correct training; but it must also reflect on the problems which the teacher and the researcher will encounter in practice in the process of doing their jobs.

Assignments Based on Education

Although this is not yet the time to review the first year of ISP activities, something which will be done in June, when the exams are over, one can say that the teachers have high hopes and that makes it possible to look forward to a good year, except for teacher licensing, since the organizational aspect must be taken into account as a fundamental matter for the future.

The efforts made by the teachers, on the one hand, and the devotion of the students, on the other hand, were mentioned by the ISP president as the foundations for the current level of education of the students, although one must take into account the problems of their rather scant prior training which was due to the contents of the programs.

"In spite of the great difficulties encountered in the procurement of bibliographic material, one can definitely see the interest of the students in individual work," said Aniceto dos Muchangos, noting that teaching methodologies are very significant in raising the educational level of the students.

"Through ever more attractive classes and regular and systematic conferences, we have gotten the students to attain ever higher learning indexes," he added.

The recognized experience of the teachers who work at the ISP under the cooperation agreements drawn up between Mozambique and four other countries --with which Mozambique operates in the ISP project (Soviet Union, GDR, Portugal, and Great Britain)--are excellent reasons for high hopes toward a good beginning.

In view of the fact that each failure signifies a delay (and there are already enough delays), the effort to provide proper training is a reciprocal undertaking between teachers and students and very special attention has been devoted to the weakest students.

Besides, helping the weakest students was the major concern of the teachers according to recommendations in terms of teaching methodologies and from contemporary teaching experts.

In this respect, Aniceto dos Muchangos believes that the problems encountered in 1986, a rather troublesome year for the ISP, will subside in the future. "The problems we had to face constantly are the problems of growth. In education, especially in higher education, this movement is inevitable although at the same it is desirable," he added.

Cooperation--A Goal to Be Attained

The president of the ISP felt that, during this start up phase, special attention must be devoted to cooperation with other teaching institutions (both domestic and foreign).

He revealed that, domestically speaking, "Our relations are most substantial and intimate with the Eduardo Mondlane University," adding that, in scientific areas where the experience of the UEM [Eduardo Mondlane University] is very helpful, appropriate contacts have already been established.

He mentioned the support of the schools of education, mathematics and sciences, and literature.

"It is obvious that there is much yet to be explored and we do hope that this trend will continue," he repeated.

Some cooperation efforts with the Maputo Middle Teacher Training Institute have already been planned and are in a relatively advanced stage. "Since this is a teacher training institution we naturally have many common interests," said Aniceto dos Muchangos.

He noted that, at the level of subject groups and departments, there are programs and plans for joint efforts; among other things, he announced that, between the beginning and middle of this month, the students of the ISP will do their practical familiarization exercises at the Maputo Middle Teacher Training Institute.

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CSO: 3442/142

BRIEFS

NEW FRUIT INTRODUCED--Caramboia and Jambo Indiano, two species of fruits which do not exist in the city of Beira, are going to be introduced into the family and private sectors in the city by the Savane Agrarian House, an organization linked to the MONAP-1 Project, for the development of fruit cultivation. Valdemar Schuartz, a technical engineer from the Fruit Cultivation Sector, said that, to facilitate the education and training of personnel who will disseminate the new fruit production techniques in Beira, the Savane Pilot Agrarian House is building a school where slides and films will be shown on the cultivation of fruits and vegetables. One of the subjects to be taught will be how to make chemical compost and how to apply chemical fertilizer. [Text] [Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 10 Apr 87 p 3] 5058

CSO: 3442/142

WHITES-ONLY SIGNS DISCARDED, RACISM PERSISTS

Bias Against Blacks, Colored

Johannesburg THE SUNDAY STAR in English 29 Mar 87 p 8

[Article by Brendan Seery]

[Text]

WINDHOEK — Ten years ago workmen were busy across South West Africa removing "whites only" signs from public places.

The Mixed Marriages Act and the Group Areas Act quickly followed the official outlawing of racial discrimination into the dustbin of history.

Yet in this country — hailed back then as a blueprint for South Africa — apartheid and racism are still a part of day-to-day life.

By South African Government decree "separate development" is entrenched and inequalities are perpetuated with whites keeping segregated schools and hospitals and their own tax revenue.

Most blacks and coloured people are second-class citizens in the land of their birth and many battle for survival against rampant inflation and rising unemployment. In the northern areas the bush war between Swapo insurgents and the security forces is in its 21st year.

Since the apartheid restrictions were eased in South West Africa in the late 1970s blacks have been given considerably more freedom, although separate development remains strong as a white ideology. A black

may now:

- Enter any shop, restaurant or public place and be entitled to the same treatment or service as a white.
- Watch films at any cinema.
- Swim at municipal swimming pools.
- Use the same toilet facilities as whites.
- Visit any resort or game park.
- Rent houses or flats.
- Buy any property in any area.
- Be called up for national service.

Racial discrimination of any kind in regard to public amenities has been outlawed but in practice there are few prosecutions.

In reality the whites are little disturbed in their racial havens as property prices in Windhoek and other towns are high enough to prevent all but the most wealthy blacks from becoming homeowners.

Few black swimmers are ever seen at Windhoek's main municipal swimming pool — the tariff of R1 a day during the week and R2 a day over weekends keeps even some whites away.

Tickets costing R5 and R6 for the town's main cinema also help keep blacks out. Drive-ins are more popular for black families who have cars.

There are nevertheless a number of areas which remain closed:

Opposing them is the National Party of South West Africa, with considerable support among whites and sympathy in the corridors of power in Pretoria. The party refuses to submit to what it calls "forced integration" and emphasises that minority rights — such as exclusive schools — should be constitutionally protected.

Yet despite life being far from perfect, there are people who say they would not even consider swapping South West Africa for unrest-troubled South Africa.

On this page are the stories of three such people — one white, one coloured and one black...

- The segregated schools of the Administration for whites are closed to other race groups and their often expensive sports facilities are not for the use of blacks and coloured people.

- Hospitals remain largely segregated.

- Membership of some social and sports clubs is closed to blacks.

South African Government Proclamation AG8 of 1980 enshrines the principles of apartheid by dividing the country into separate ethnic kingdoms in which individual groups have responsibility for their own affairs.

Currently the majority in Windhoek's Transitional Government is fighting to have AG8 scrapped and schools integrated.

Mixed-Race Couple Happy

Johannesburg THE SUNDAY STAR in English 29 Mar 87 p 8

[Text]

FOR former Catholic missionary Liam Rainey (46), Windhoek "could not be more ideal" as a place to live and raise a family.

Which is just what he and his wife Maureen (41) are doing, after settling in the South West Africa capital nine years ago.

Anywhere else in the world, the Raineys and their four children — ranging in age from three to seven — would scarcely merit a passing glance.

Yet, in this apartheid-conditioned corner of Africa, they are regarded as a mixed-race couple.

The romance between Belfast-born Mr Rainey and the former Miss Maureen Martin began in the late 1970s, when he was working as a missionary in a coloured area of Port Elizabeth. In 1977, the prospect of marriage was out of the question in South Africa.

But in Pretoria the winds of change were blowing, and the Mixed Marriages Act and other race laws were either buried or in their death throes.

Arriving in Windhoek with barely a suitcase of clothing each, the couple stayed with a friend of Maureen's and were soon married. For six months, though, the couple broke the law by living in a flat Liam had rented before the official scrapping of the Group Areas Act.

Like Hillbrow today, many flats in Windhoek were then integrated, and the authorities generally turned a blind eye to the practice.

The Rainey's have had few problems with overt racism and apartheid since their move to SWA. People still occasionally stare at them, but there have been no outright insults or antagonism, although Liam points out that he and Maureen do not go to places where they might provoke reaction.

However, returning to South Africa to visit Maureen's parents have reminded them that the colour of a person's skin remains a cardinal issue beyond the border. On one occasion, an official at King's Beach in Port Elizabeth told them it was illegal for non-whites to swim there, and the family has to be very careful about selecting hotels when stopping over in South African platteland towns on their journey to Port Elizabeth.

In Windhoek, though, they notice little discrimination in their day-to-day lives.

Both are teachers and work at multiracial schools — Liam at the Catholic St Paul's College and

Maureen at the Consolidated Diamond Mines-funded Concordia College.

Liam cannot think of a better place to bring up his children than the clear air and open spaces of SWA. There is no question of him or his family returning to South Africa.

He regards the scrapping of the Mixed Marriages Act in South Africa as being little more than useless without the parallel axing of the Group Areas Act.

There is little point in allowing couples of mixed race to live together, he says, without first creating the necessary social structures for them to do so.

He is concerned about the ultimate future of both his country and South Africa—"Obviously, if the blood starts to run in the streets, we would have to leave."

But he sees a great potential for a SWA which "will eventually be independent".

A country, he hopes, where race and colour will be immaterial; a country which, like Botswana, can show the way in racial tolerance and understanding to South Africa.

Widow Is Satisfied

Johannesburg THE SUNDAY STAR in English 29 Mar 87 p 8

[Text]

MRS MARIA Gabriel (50) is, like Liam and Lloyd, happy with her lot in life, but for vastly different reasons.

A widowed Nama woman with two school-going girls to care for, she says she is happy with her place and she shows no desire to move out of the station in life that apartheid has assigned her.

She says she has no urge to move away from her R25-a-month shoebox house in the dusty township of Katutura.

"Well, Master, I cannot live like the white people in the big houses on that side of town. It is just how things are. The white people are better — they are up there and the black and coloured people are underneath."

Working as a maid for white families in Windhoek, Maria's main problems in life are how to make ends meet on her wages. Her pay varies from employer to employer, but typically she gets about R60 a month from each employer for an eight-hour day once a week.

"But things are so terribly expensive here. Every day the

things cost more. Sometimes it is a terrible worry to me."

Born in the Rehoboth Baster Gebiet" about 80 km from Windhoek, Maria has been doing other people's cooking and cleaning for most of her adult life. She keeps to herself and her kind in Katutura, and tries to avoid politics — "What is politics? I don't even know what is politics. What is apartheid for me? I don't know."

She cannot really say whether things have changed much since the lifting of the petty apartheid restrictions 10 years ago, because she seldom gets into situations where there would be any possibility of contact with whites outside the "madam and maid" relationship.

She knows, for instance, that it is now easier to go into certain shops than it was in the past, and that now she can go to the same counters as whites in the post office.

But she avoids confrontation. "I am not a cheeky person, I know my place."

When pressed, though, she concedes that she hopes her

two girls might one day get good jobs, perhaps even marry and move into one of the big houses in Ludwigsdorf, Eros or Luxury Hill.

In that case (she chuckles) she might move in with them.

"The grannies can always clean the house."

Her eldest son left Windhoek some years ago, about the time when the first national-service callup of non-whites was announced. He now lives in Soweto, and occasionally returns to visit, but vows he would never return to Katutura.

Maria says she thinks he is crazy and she worries whenever she hears tales from South Africa of riots or the "necklace".

Thankfully, Katutura is a much quieter place, she says. "I am very happy here, and I know God will look after me."

Bad Memories Remain

Johannesburg THE SUNDAY STAR in English 29 Mar 87 p 8

[Text]

LLOYD Saunderson has still not told his father of an incident that took place the best part of 20 years ago in the dusty streets of Mariental in the semi-desert south of South West Africa.

He recalls sitting outside a bank with his younger brother, waiting for their father, when two white children on bicycles tried to run down the "klonkies".

The young coloured children fled and Lloyd said nothing.

"My father is a proud man and I know he would have been very angry and wanted to do something if we had told him what had happened," Lloyd said.

He feels things have changed since those days and since the lifting of race bars more whites have begun trying to change their attitudes.

Some appeared to be more willing to deal with blacks as fellow human beings.

Lloyd admits that life is probably easier for coloured people than blacks because "some whites just seem to be a lot harder towards blacks".

In his case, life has been kind. He rents a room in a house in a former white suburb owned by two coloured friends of his and says openly he would hate to live in the coloured township of Khomasdal in Windhoek where poverty, overcrowding and alcoholism are rife.

As the holder of a BComm degree from the University of the Western Cape, Lloyd had little problem in landing his present job in the finance section of BP.

He reckons many more avenues have opened up for blacks in SWA in the last 10 years and the improvement extends beyond the mere fact that blacks now do not have to use separate entrances or facilities in shops and Government buildings.

Lloyd, an up-and-coming road-runner, believes he has fitted in well with whites in the Windhoek Harriers where this year he was elected to the committee as treasurer.

Although road-running in SWA has been integrated for some years, racism still manifests itself on occasions.

Lloyd recalls an incident at a charity race when drunken white spectators refused to allow coloured runners into a beer tent after the event.

Lloyd also encounters occasional feelings of reticence among young white runners from conservative environments and possibly competing against blacks for the first time.

On the other hand, he has encountered no abuse when he and his training partner — a female white Harriers runner — go out on their regular training runs.

Life, then, is good for Lloyd Saunderson. He is optimistic about the future of his country and firmly believes the "hurtful" system of apartheid will eventually be swept away completely in SWA.

"I think I would rather live in Windhoek than anywhere else," he stated.

South Africa, he said, scared him sometimes because of the depth of hatred and bad feeling between races there — something rarely found in SWA.

/13046
CSO: 3400/698

UK'S ECGD CREDIT PACKAGE ANGERS LENDERS

London AFRICA ANALYSIS in English 3 Apr 87 pp 1-2

[Text]

BRITAIN'S Export Credits Guarantee Department is set to counter-attack in defence of the UK market share in Nigeria with a series of massive trade credits which could amount to well over £500m. But the planned package is already provoking anger among some bankers and industrialists. They are concerned that ECGD's move will undermine the already frayed 'common front' the creditors are trying to present to Lagos.

For Mrs Thatcher's government, the new funding will be an election-year signal to exporters that it will back them in difficult markets of real importance. Though still well out in front in Nigeria, they have come under increasing competitive pressure from West Germany, Italy, Brazil and, especially, France.

Covering both short-term and project business, the package will gradually come into effect after formal signature of the bilateral rescheduling deal - initialled last week by Nigerian finance minister Chu Ogonkwu and ECGD chief executive Jack Gill. Implementation also depends on the successful resolution of an argument between Lagos and the IMF over the way oil revenues have been managed.

There are four main elements to the ECGD package: £500m in short-term cover, a credit line worth at least £100m and both new and old project business. ECGD wants to make sure British firms get a large cut of new project deals, and do not just end up providing the routine 'nuts and bolts' imports while the major contracts go to the French and others.

It should not be too long before funds start to come on line - formal signature of the bilateral deal is due in a few weeks and the argument with the IMF could be sorted out when Nigerian officials visit Washington on April 8-10 for a routine meeting of the Fund's development and interim committees. The dispute is believed to be over why some oil revenue has been diverted into special escrow accounts rather than kept for the central kitty out of which import and rescheduling bills must be met.

If ECGD goes ahead on its own, those most upset could include uninsured creditors holding promissory notes (on which Nigeria has already defaulted), or those still waiting

for their claims to be reconciled and validated. But they may well have been mollified by this week's announcement that a further \$1.5bn in notes will be issued on 7 April. Law Debenture Trust, the trustee for the noteholders, has now appointed international banker David Murison to look after their interests.

The funding package will represent a more than tenfold increase on current new ECGD business on Nigeria. At present it is only insuring cash-against-documents trade under letters of credit for a few policy holders dealing with regular buyers. This is worth about £50m a year. (Of course, it is also committed on deals agreed in the past before it came off cover.)

ECGD is prepared to expand short-term business up to a ceiling of £500m. New Nigerian buyers will be accepted and also existing ECGD export policyholders who are not yet doing business with Nigeria. Payment terms will also be slackened to allow up to 180 days' credit on irrevocable ILCs, which will not need to be confirmed.

The department is also prepared to cover new money needed for completion of some projects it is already backing. Talks with Lagos will determine which of the many contracts underway will require this extra support - and justify it. Agriculture and electricity are likely priorities.

Then, like several other countries which have recently rescheduled, Nigeria will be offered a special so-called 'DX' line of credit, to fund essential supplies and spares to get industry and agriculture going. The line will be worth at least £100m, far more than has been made available to other debtor countries and a sign of how highly Britain rates the Nigerian market. In fact, ECGD has already asked Lagos to consider its choice of a bank to handle the line. Prime candidates must be those heavily involved in the market, such as Barclays, Standard Chartered, ANZ-Grindlays, or even a merchant bank.

The final component is specific new project business, which must be of economic value and approved by the World Bank. ECGD would like to join with the bank in co-financing some projects it has already selected and where it is looking for partners. But the department is also prepared to take on some deals alone, provided they are approved.

The expansion of short-term cover should begin as soon as ECGD's basic conditions are met: signature of the bilateral and settlement of the differences with the IMF.

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CSO: 3400/729

CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION ACCUSES GOVERNMENT OF ISLAMIC BIAS

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 11 Apr 87 pp 1, 3

[Article by Sani Haruna]

[Text]

THE Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Zaria branch has said that the present administration has leaned towards Islam and distorted the rightful meaning of secularity by declaring that secularity does not mean that the government must not play active role in religion.

Giving evidence before Donli committee looking into the recent disturbances in Kaduna State in Zaria on Wednesday, Reverend Benjamin Kwashi, representing CAN, said it was with this new participatory definition of secularity that the President took the nation into the OIC without any constitutional backing.

CAN said since independence, the various governments in Nigeria at federal and local levels have persistently leaned towards Islam and Muslims instead of playing the neutral role that any patriotic government should play.

The association expressed displeasure that the federal, states and local governments have been spending money and human resources to see to the success of Muslim pilgrimage which is a personal religious matter and recently provided funds to transport Muslims to Saudi Arabia for Sheikh Abubakar Gumi's King Faisal award.

CAN said the government continued her open support of Muslims and Islam by upgrading the status of Sharia law without

any referendum.

He said the government's willingness to spend the tax payers money to erect Sharia courts and pay salaries to the grand khadis who preside over Muslim personal and family law without paying Christian pastors and bishops for settling Christian quarrels at personal and family levels was a further indication that the government was for Islam.

CAN said it was because the Nigerian Muslims have the full backing of the government of the day that they often take the laws into their own hands, adding that for many years Muslims have been misinterpreting the Holy Bible but Christians never raised a finger.

The association said wherever there were Muslim riots, tribunals were set up but the government never issued any white paper on the crisis and instead of holding those who destroyed Christian Churches, the government banned religious associations.

CAN said the government always banned outside preaching to the detriment of Christianity because it knew that Christians carry out evangelisation crusades and outside preachings more than Muslims.

The association said policy makers of the country such as the head of state, chief of army staff,

chief of air staff, heads of security service, national intelligence agency, military intelligence, inspector general of police, governor of the Central Bank, director of customs and ministers of strategic ministries are all Muslims.

CAN further said most of the nationalists whose names were immortalised by government through naming of buildings and institutions were always Muslims.

The association said the recent disturbance in Kaduna State involving an unprovoked large-scale destruction of Churches, places of Christian activities, residences, businesses and properties as well as brutal physical attacks on some Christians by Muslims raised fundamental questions relating not only to the constitutional rights and personal security of all the citizens of Nigeria but also the future of the country as one united and strong peaceful and sovereign state.

CAN said many desperate attempts were made by the CAN, the Churches and some individuals to avert the recent planned atrocities against Christians in Zaria but all to no avail and warned that "enough is enough".

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CSO: 3400/719

PAPERS ACCUSED OF RELIGIOUS BIAS

Christians Call for Proscription

Kaduna SUNDAY NEW NIGERIAN in English 12 Apr 87 p 1

[Text]

THE Christian Association of Nigeria, (CAN). Northern States branch has called on the Federal Government to proscribe the New Nigerian Newspapers Limited, Kaduna.

It has also directed all christians and peace-loving Nigerians to boycott newspapers published by the company for one month, starting tomorrow.

Archbishop P.Y. Jatau and S.E.S. Salifu chairman and secretary of the association in a statement yesterday said CAN was disappointed by the way and manner the papers have been carrying reports on the religious disturbances in Kaduna State.

It said the association had followed with keen interest and concern the press coverage in the New Nigerian Newspapers Limited stable on the riot and were badly disappointed that the government-owned newspapers could become partisan, sectional

and clearly teleguided by the Jama'atul Nasril Islam (JNI) and the Muslim Students' Society (MSS). The association alleged that it has discovered that the Acting Editor of the *New Nigerian*, Malam Adamu Adamu, was an MSS activist.

The association said it was unhappy with the paper's attack on the chairperson of the administrative panel, Mrs. H.N. Donli just because she was a woman.

It also said that the JNI, Zaria branch even went far to say that it was unislamic for a woman to head any society or panel, and wondered who told the JNI Zaria that Nigeria was an Islamic state.

The association said that for anyone to consider Nigeria an Ecclesiastical or Islamic state was a big illusion. It pointed out that the JNI should be reminded that the Emir of Zaria, Alhaji Shehu Idris, had cooperated and testified before the panel.

The association said the Emirate of Zazzau (Zaria) was founded by Queen Amina, who is still being honoured by muslims today.

"It is therefore mischievous, callous and un-nationalistic for JNI Zaria to come out publicly with the irresponsible utterance against Mrs. Donli," it further said, adding that government should view this development seriously.

COMYO Charges SKETCH Posture Anti-Islamic

Kaduna SUNDAY NEW NIGERIAN in English 12 Apr 87 p 1

[Text] THE Council of Muslim Youth Organisations (COMYO) in Ibadan has also appealed to Ogun and Ondo states government to check the "undisguised anti-Islamic posture" of the Sketch Group of Newspapers on the Kaduna disturbances.

It urged governors of the two states to see to it that "Christian fanatics within the Sketch are flushed out" to allow for responsible journalism with a public purpose.

In an open letter to Governor Adetunji Idowu (Hurin, dated April 7, Secretary and Co-ordinator Alhaji Waheed Amao and Malam Ishaq Kunko Sanni respectively said the news coverage by the Sketch "was not only terribly biased but has the smell of outrageous Christian bigotry to the extent that a Christian gazette could not have done worse."

It said the newspaper has "diverted the attention of the readers from the murderous and barbaric events" that culminated in the unfortunate episode in some parts of

Kaduna State and "hurled all sorts of abuses on Muslims in their articles and editorials."

It said the Sketch Group should serve Muslims and Christians, adding that since the O.I.C. issue came up it had "always taken an antagonistic posture to the Muslims who form the majority among its owners", adding that the same christian sentiment was displayed during the Cross issue at the University of Ibadan.

The association warned that "this kind of horrendous despicable and subjective journalism could lead to bad blood and religious chaos moreso when the tension or religious acrimony in the country is still high."

It warned that Muslims would not condone the action of some irresponsible journalists to use what belonged to all in ridiculing and casting aspersion on Muslim leaders and Islam as they did in their editorial of April 7.

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CSO: 3400/720

ABACHA WARNS ARMY ON RELIGIOUS ZEALOTRY

Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 13 Apr 87 pp 1, 12

[Text]

NIGERIAN soldiers should regard the unity and territorial integrity of the country as their only religion.

They should also treat as "security risk" anyone who attempts to introduce religious sentiments into their midst.

This was the charge given to officers and men of the Third Armoured Division of the Nigerian Army in Jos at the weekend by the Chief of Army Staff, Major-General Sani Abacha.

Major-General Abacha, who was speaking at Rukuba Army cantonment in continuation of his tour of military formations in the country, said religious fanaticism heralded dangerous trends in the history of Nigeria.

He warned that those using religion as strategy in their political equations "must stop treading on a dangerous ground."

General Abacha remarked that the recent religious uprising in some parts of Kaduna State was "subversive in motive, destructive in execution and constituted a grand attempt by self-seeking zealots whose only religion is power at all costs to tear the country apart."

He commended the impartiality of troops who quelled the Kaduna riots and hailed their spirit of patriotism. He also praised men of the 15 Mechanised Infantry Brigade, 21 and 23 armoured brigades for their performance.

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CSO: 3400/719

BABANGIDA TO LAUNCH ECOWAS ECONOMIC RECOVERY PACKAGE

Lagos BUSINESS TIMES in English 13 Apr 87 p 20

[Article by Nduka Nwosu]

[Text]

A TOTAL of 136 projects have been recommended for the approval of the heads of state of the Economic Community of West African States — ECOWAS.

ECOWAS sources at its economic recovery department revealed to Business Times that a complete package of economic recovery projects has been wrapped up for implementation, subject to approval by the Authority of ECOWAS heads of State.

The package which is part of the series of activities on ECOWAS, to be launched by President Ibrahim Babangida between now and July in Abuja, was drawn up following earlier deliberations by member states on the poor and ailing economic condition of the sub-region.

Known as the Lome Convention, member states agreed that there was need to draw up a comprehensive package of economic recovery in the West African sub-region under the umbrella of ECOWAS.

Drawn up in May 1984, the Authority of heads of state attributed the series of economic maladies afflicting ECOWAS members to the structural imbalance and the world-wide recession that spilled

over to the West African economy since 1980.

Having decried the economic efforts by the United Nations Development Decades on the sub-region, the Authority adopted a new measure of development seeking to complement national efforts by formulating policies and programmes capable of redynamising the organs of the existing co-operation institutions.

Part of these domestic policies and programmes involved long term structural adjustment and rehabilitation programmes tailored to the needs of these crisis-stricken countries.

Nigeria and a number of other member states have already initiated the tortuous but inevitable structural adjustment programmes, both long and short term-oriented, which are matched by what the Authority dubbed "exceptional assistance from the international community".

Although efforts have been made along the line of trade liberalisation which critics say is still stretched and far between in concept and practice the protocol of free movement of persons etc, it is on the adoption of a common economic development strategy that the on

coming summit is looking forward to.

This common economic package, sources informed Business Times, would seek for a co-ordinated planning for the sub-region in order to optimise the utilisation of the limited resources available to the Community.

Beyond this however, the package when unwrapped by President Babangida this month or in July when the Authority's summit comes up, will also seek to promote the rehabilitation of production structures.

It will as well adopt and implement adequate adjustment mechanisms in the face of deteriorating balance of payments situations.

Apart from the much talked about common monetary zone in the sub-region, concrete projects aimed at rationalising regional production so as to achieve food self-sufficiency through the rehabilitation of production industries and the enhancement of capacity utilisation, will form part of the projects considered by the Agricultural Development Committee on the Economic Recovery package.

The construction of roads, and other adequate transport and communication infrastructures, the fight against unemployment and a concerted action on desertification were all given

/13046

CSO: 3400/718

NEW FOOD, ROADS, RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE FORMED

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 13 Apr 87 p 1

[Text]

FEDERAL Government has promulgated a new decree formally establishing the Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure.

In a gazette released in Lagos on Friday, the government also announced the amendment of the National Council for Arts and Culture Decree.

The decree on the directorate empowers it to mobilise rural communities for the development of rural areas in the country.

To ensure that the work of the directorate had pragmatic content, the decree said "officers and other staff of the directorate shall comprise a core of professionals in the various fields of activities to facilitate an improved quality of life in the rural areas."

The decree also empowers the directorate to undertake the construction and repair of roads to facilitate communications and distribution of agricultural produce as well as the provision of industrial raw materials.

According to the decree, the directorate is also empowered to liaise with the appropriate federal, state and local government councils for the provision of water, health facilities, electricity and means of communication in the rural areas.

The National Council for Arts and Culture Decree 1987 amends its act of 1975 to enable it to reconstitute the council and provide for the appointments of the director and secretary to the council.

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CSO: 3400/718

YAHAYA BLAMES POLITICS FOR AIR FORCE SCHOOL DELAY

Enugu DAILY STAR in English 11 Apr 87 p 1

[Text]

THE Air Officer Commanding (AOC) Air Training Command, Nigeria Air Force, Air Vice-Marshal Mohammed Yahaya, on Thursday said that politics had delayed the take-off of the 305 pilot training school in Enugu.

Exchanging views with the Anambra state military governor, Group Captain Emeka Omeruah, at the Government House, Enugu, Air Vice-Marshal Yahaya said that the last civilian administration in the state made it impossible for the training school to take off.

He pointed out that the direct consequence of that was that so much time was lost, and that it would now cost more money to reclaim the land on which the school was situated.

The AOC, however, urged Governor Omeruah to use his good offices to ensure that land would not hamper the smooth take-off of the air force training school.

Air Vice-Marshal Yahaya announced that 15 pilot students were at the moment doing their academic instructions at the 305 Air Training School.

The AOC who is also a member of the Armed Forces Ruling Council (AFRC), commended Governor Omeruah for his stewardship so far.

Group Captain Omeruah in

his remarks, promised that his government would do everything possible to ensure that the 305 Training School properly got off the ground.

He said that when he was posted to Anambra State in 1983, the federal government had clear goals and objectives, adding: "we fashioned out ways to achieve these objectives".

Group Captain Omeruah declared: "we will continue to try and hold up to these tenets for our people."

On arrival at the airport where he was received by Governor Omeruah and Group Captain Monday Ekeoma, Air Vice-Marshal Yahaya told correspondents that he was in Enugu for his annual inspection tour of the airforce base.

He said that the Nigeria Air Force intended to complete the 305 Training School to give it a new impetus.

Air Vice-Marshal Yahaya then commended the Nigerian Press for the co-operation it had so far given the present administration in the country.

He later paid a courtesy call on the traditional ruler of Nkpa, Igwe Edward Nnaji, and the acting GOC 82 Division, Colonel Raji.

Air Vice-Marshal Yahaya on Friday continues his tour of the airforce base in Enugu.

NIGERIA

BRIEFS

APDS AWAIT 'SUBSIDIARY LOAN AGREEMENTS'--Lagos--Seven agricultural development projects (APDs) planned for the southern and middle belt states of Nigeria still await funds to begin operating, although agreement between the World Bank and the federal government on aid worth \$162m--out of a total cost of \$256m--was reached last June. The project units are in place and management and staff appointed, but the current hold-up is the signing of 'subsidiary loan agreements.' It is under these that the federal government on-lends the World Bank funds to state governments. The problem is bureaucracy. In Imo state, for example, the subsidiary loan agreement was drafted with the name of the appropriate minister and forwarded for signature to the Federal Mortgage Bank which was handling the loan. Then there was a change of minister; the document had to be redrafted. But by the time the revised agreement was ready, the board of the Mortgage Bank had been dissolved. Reconstitution of the board took another three months. After the document finally passed the bank's board, the minister was away at the Paris Club negotiations, after which he went on two weeks' leave. The whole process took six months. Similar delays are holding back progress in other states. World Bank officials in Lagos are nevertheless hopeful that all the agreements will be through by the middle of this year. The projects, designed to boost rural output--vital to Nigeria's economic development--have been due for the go-ahead for more than two years. (Africa Analysis, no 12) [Text] [London AFRICA ANALYSIS English 3 Apr 87 p 9] /9317

ARMY RECRUITMENT--Recruitment into the 24 Regular Recruits Intake of the Nigerian Army will take place in all state capitals beginning from April 21 to 24. An official statement in Lagos said, recruitment forms are obtainable on the payment of N5.00 at the state recruitment centres, the state liaison offices or the Directorate of Army Reserve, Recruitment and Resettlement located in Bonny Camp Victoria Island, Lagos. [Text] [Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 11 Apr 87 p 10] /13046

CSO: 3400/719

INTELLIGENCE AGENCY ESTABLISHED

London AFRICA ANALYSIS in English 3 Apr 87 p 5

[Text]

KAMPALA. Security looms large in Uganda's thoughts just now. Fighting has so far covered at least half of the country. It has been reported intermittently at Gulu, stretching from the Sudanese border to Karuma Falls. There has also been fighting at Kitgum - with government troops winning one day, and the rebels the next.

Because of intense rebel activities in Gulu, both the northern brigade headquarters and the artillery headquarters have been moved to Lira. But once again the government was forced to withdraw most of its artillery pieces away from Lira to Masindi. This involved crossing the Nile and going to the west.

In the eastern region, government troops have been attacked at Kaberamaido, Wera, Katakwi, and last week in Kumi and Kachumbala, close to Mbale. Some fighting has also been reported in Mbale and Tororo, and ambushes have occurred in Iganga, towards Jinja.

Rebels have attacked government vehicles at Masaka, in the west; and casualties among the Ruwenzururu, who inhabit the Ruwenzero area of Kasese, are said to be high.

There are allegations that government forces are now using toxic chemicals, believed to be supplied by Libya. Army helicopters are reported to have dropped chemicals on suspected rebel positions, especially in Lira and Soroti areas.

At the time of writing, there is a lull in fighting except in the east. But the government finds it difficult to function normally: the politically powerful special district administrators (equivalent of governors) have turned themselves into warlords, running their districts single-handed.

Uganda's newest and as yet unchristened intelligence agency has been set up at the former premises of the OAU Language Bureau in Kampala. It is headed by Jimmy Muhwezi, a Makerere law graduate and a confidant of President Yoweri Museveni. The 50 or so members of the agency, many of whom are of Rwandese origin, have temporarily taken up residence at the country's largest hotel, the Apolo. (The hotel was declared uninhabitable

several years ago - the government is now looking for a financier to rehabilitate it).

When Museveni came to power he promised that his National Resistance Army (NRA) would establish popularly elected grassroots resistance committees in every village. These were supposed to be the 'eyes and ears' of the government. He said: 'We don't need intelligence agencies to spy on the people, to torture them, abuse their human rights as they have done in the past.' But torture is now allegedly practiced, especially in Mbuya military barracks (one of three in Kampala), in one of the buildings here known as 'Argentina', and at the quarter guards room in Republic House (the ministry of defence headquarters).

The quarter guards has a capacity for 10 people but as many as 70 detainees are known to have been kept there at one time.

At least 13 people recently died at the quarter guards, according to George Okurapa, a former president of Makerere university students council, who was held in both Mbuya and Republic House.

Museveni supporters insist that the deterioration in NRA discipline owes much to the incorporation of other fighting groups in the national army. They point out that NRA units which summarily execute prisoners are often found on investigation to be made up largely of ex-UNLA soldiers or led by ex-UNLA officers.

The task of incorporating the fighting groups into the NRA has been entrusted to commander Fred Mwesigye, who took to the bush with Museveni in February 1981. It involves screening thousands of men for human rights abuses, setting up new battalions, allocating men to existing ones, and resettling men who are too old or disabled.

'Reorganisation' camps were initially set up in Fort Portal, Masaka, and Mbarara, but now there is only one, at Kiburara prison farm, between Ibanda and Kasese.

Some of the officers at Kiburara started a rumour that it was a concentration camp for POWs. But according to Mwesigye, the officers were 'insulted' by having to share quarters and eat the same food as the men they once led.

In unguarded moments NRA commanders say that they do not want 'true NRAs polluted' by the influx of men of uncertain allegiance, but publicly they do not distinguish between old and new NRAs.

The NRA says that most of the soldiers of the other groups were 'good fellows' misled by bad leaders and that not all NRAs from the bush years are angels. One commander says: 'Some were in the bush for five years and came out rogues. Others joined after the victory in 1986 and have done excellent work.' Recent revelations that the 5th battallion in Arua is heavily involved in smuggling prove this paradox. It is one of the oldest NRA units, only the third to form in Luwero.

CASHEW CROPS PROVIDE FOREIGN EXCHANGE HOPE

London AFRICA ANALYSIS in English 17 Apr 87 p 9

[Text]

LUSAKA. The Landell Mills Associates of Bath, the International Finance Corporation and British Oxygen have joined with Zambian parastatal firms to grow and process cashew nuts in Mongu, Western Province. The investment will be K50m (\$8m).

The Zambia Cashew Nut Company is a subsidiary of the Zambia Industrial and Mining Corporation, owning 51% of the shares. Local shareholders include the Development Bank of Zambia and Zambia State Insurance Corporation.

The company has acquired a plot for the nuts plantation between Mongu and Limulunga, the summer capital of the Litunga, the Lozi king. It is hoped to export 85% of the crop, at K30 a kilo.

Local peasants already grow cashew nuts but the trees are poorly looked after. The company is now helping with extension services. The general manager is Graham Mann, a Briton.

The company has, however, had a bumpy start because ownership of the land being used was hotly disputed under the feudal system. Local people occupying the land claimed they were not consulted. Senior officers in the Lozi royal cabinet who gave away the land were either sacked or fined cattle. This has precipitated a confrontation - only slowly being cooled - between tradition and development.

Cashew nuts are already being exported by Woodgate Holdings, the Zambian conglomerate, which grows them in the north-western province. Woodgate chairman Enoch Kavindele says: 'If Zambia had concentrated on cashew nuts six years ago, they would now be making a real contribution to our foreign exchange earnings.'

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CSO: 3400/727

CHEAP LUXURY AMID ECONOMIC DISASTER DESCRIBED

London AFRICA ANALYSIS in English 17 Apr 87 pp 1-2

[Text]

LUSAKA. You can fly from Zambia's Copperbelt to the capital for \$10, buy an imported Italian suit for under \$50, and have a three-course dinner at the Lusaka Intercontinental's restaurant for \$2.50. To really economize, stay at a government rural rest house for US 10 cents a night.

Though the kwacha cost of consumer goods and services rises at record speed, shopkeepers cannot change price-tags fast enough to keep pace with the currency's declining value.

Of course, the windfalls listed above accrue only to expatriates and the handful of Zambians with non-auction sources of hard currency. Everyone else is suffering still more in daily life with each turn of the financial screw.

The kwacha lost nearly half its value in just eight days after the currency auctions resumed on 27 March. Despite a government pledge not to let it drop below 12.5 to the US dollar, it went down almost 19 on 11 April. The currency has been effectively devalued by more than 800% since the auctions began in October 1985.

Canny manipulators can stretch dollars to the maximum by sneaking through a hole in the auction system: winning bids are accepted on Saturday, but the bank rates do not change until Monday. On those rare occasions when the kwacha rises, one can rush to the Lusaka airport after having read the new rate in Sunday's *Times of Zambia*

- perhaps while feasting on a 60 cent breakfast at the Intercontinental -- and change money at the old rate.

Despite President Kaunda's pledge last year to curtail frivolous use of hard currency, South African commodities fill the stores in wealthier neighbourhoods.

A researcher from a European 'solidarity' group, touring the frontline states to plan support for the region against South African economic pressure, recently called upon a senior Zambian official. He was told: 'Some products we can get only from South Africa - wine for example'. Asked about the perfectly drinkable wines from neighbouring Zimbabwe, the Zambian official looked contemptuous.

Though he would never admit it, the IMF has become the political saviour of Kaunda's increasingly unpopular government. Without bankers to blame for the downward economic spiral, he might find the discontent uncontrollable.

The wave of strikes in February and March, led by doctors, nurses, teachers and other white collar workers, is only the tip of a huge iceberg of anger. Yet poor and middle-income Zambians from many walks of life, interviewed at rural markets and in central Lusaka, blamed inflation on the IMF first, then on unscrupulous shopkeepers, and only finally on the government.

For any Zambian paid in kwacha, consumer prices rose 120% last year.

A government doctor's K800 monthly salary is now worth less than S45. The domestic workers and security guards who serve the wealthy earn K150 (S9) a month or less. Among the poor, inflation is literally a killer. A recent UNICEF study holds IMF conditions partly responsible for 'a significant increase in (infant) morbidity and mortality from malnutrition'.

Although the political *status quo* has some hazardous months ahead, Kaunda and his confidants are making far-sighted plans to shore up the regime. These include abandoning the nationwide presidential elections, due in 1988. Although Kaunda would be, as usual, the only candidate, there are now doubts about his receiving an essential 50% 'yes'.

So there are proposals to have his re-election for another term endorsed purely by the faithful functionaries of the United National Independence Party, the only legal political body, at its annual conference in mid-1988.

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DROUGHT CRIPPLES SOUTHERN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

London AFRICA ANALYSIS in English 17 Apr 87 p 9

[Text]

LUSAKA. With declining revenues from copper, Zambia's slim hope of avoiding a further drop in real *per capita* GDP rested on agriculture. But even that hope has now been dashed by drought.

Drought has crippled production in much of the southern province, Zambia's grainbasket; and elsewhere rain is erratic. In addition, last year's failure to collect all smallholder surpluses, leaving much to rot in peasant fields, discouraged planting in some areas with adequate rainfall. Latest projections put this year's marketed maize, due for harvest in June, at around 600,00 tonnes (a one-third drop from last year's bumper harvest).

Zambia's 1987 economic plan optimistically projected a real GDP increase of 3.4% - exactly matching population growth. Economic planners counted on continued growth in production of maize and other crops to offset the mining sector's shrinkage.

Even without drought, Zambia's patchwork of subsidies would hamper efficient marketing. Officials recently announced a 40% rise in the producer price for maize, without any corresponding increase in charges to consumers. As a result, the peasant who sells his maize to the marketing parastatal NAMBOARD at K78 a 90 kilo sack can buy back the same amount ground into roller meal, the staple food for Zambia's poor, for K50.

In the past, higher payments to farmers were quickly followed by consumer price rises. Because of Zambia's already huge deficit, some increase seems inevitable. Given last December's breakfast meal riots, officials fear the equally inevitable political response.

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CSO: 3400/727

BRIEFS

UNIP HEADQUARTERS DONATIONS--Zambia-based companies have been outdoing each other in donations towards the building of the ruling party's new headquarters in Lusaka. Work on the 16-floor UNIP House began in 1984, but the cost has proved prohibitive. Party secretary-general Grey Zulu, who heads the project, has been appealing for funds. He was quickly obliged by such diverse companies as Lonrho, Woodgate Holdings, Zambia Motor Holdings, Zambia State Insurance, Grindlay's Bank and Zambia Commercial Bank. Zulu is rumoured to entertain presidential ambitions. Well over 300 Chinese are engaged on the building site; each costs the party no less than \$500 per day, it is estimated. Many of the workers are housed in motels and government residencies. [Text] [London AFRICAN ANALYSIS in English 6 Mar 87 p 10] /9317

CSO: 3400/728

IBM SUCCESSOR ANNOUNCES MORE POWERFUL RISC MACHINE

Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 26 Mar 87 p 15

[Article edited by Matthew White]

[Text]

IBM, the successor to IBM SA, has announced a more powerful series of its reduced instruction set computing (RISC) IBM 6150 (RT PC) super-microcomputer and direct attachment to the 6150 of 1024 x 1024-pel graphics displays.

It also announced new 6150 software offerings for distributed environments, application development, ease of use, and performance.

The new 6150 series has two to three times the processing speed of the original 6150, floating-point performance up to eight times greater than that of the original models, and the rate at which blocks of data can be moved between fixed disk and real memory has been doubled. In addition, maximum memory size has been increased.

The company also announced what it says are significant price reductions both on the IBM 6150 processors and on the IBM 5061 series of high-resolution graphics display stations.

The new products broaden the range of tasks to which this full-function 32-bit super-microcomputer can be applied. The 6150 can be used — both as a multi-user system and as a stand-alone workstation — for Unix-based commercial applications; as a tool for scientists, engineers, and technical professionals; for sophisticated computer-aided publishing applications; and as a computer-aided design computer-aided manufacturing system.

It can operate independently or can be integrated into a variety of local area networks and other interconnected environments.

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DEVICE TURNS PC INTO MULTI-USER SYSTEM

Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 26 Mar 87 p 15

[Text]

A DEVICE designed to enable the small businessman to extend the useful life of his personal computer by converting it to a multi-user system, has been introduced locally by Dedicated Software.

The new Fortune multiplier lets PC users meet growing or changing data processing requirements without having to purchase additional PCs.

However, the cost of conversion to multi-user status is roughly equivalent to the cost of one additional PC.

According to development manager Pieter van Driel the addition of the multiplier can transform an MS-DOS system into a multi-user, multi-tasking general business system.

"By connecting additional terminals a number of users can make use of the system simultaneously."

"The result is performance and responsiveness not regularly seen with MS-DOS."

"In this way a user can run

powerful professional Unix applications in addition to existing MS-DOS applications."

He says installation of the plug-in expansion system not only eliminates the problem of staff queuing up for a turn at a PC, but also allows for files to be shared by several users, while selected files can be protected from unauthorized access.

"It allows for simultaneous operation of both the Unix and MS-DOS systems."

"A user could thus recalculate his MS-DOS spreadsheet while his Unix word processing report is printing, and additional users are running Unix applications at connected terminals."

"Files can be transferred between the two systems easily, eliminating the need for recapturing data."

The card, which is inserted into an expansion slot, can be used with IBM XT or equivalent machines.

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CSO: 3400/697

LOCALLY DEVELOPED SOFTWARE RECOMMENDED

Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 20 Mar 87 p 11

[Text] **MILLIONS** of rands are "lost" every year through buying foreign software packages for use in SA.

It is estimated about R20m alone is spent on foreign packages for integrated micro-computing accounting purposes.

According to Grodata Systems MD, Robin Grosberg, "It would have made sense if there were no locally-written packages available, but many are and these are proving to be of a very high standard because they are in turn being exported."

Grodata has produced the successful Gold Reef accounting package, which is being used by a number of companies already.

According to Grosberg, "Local users enjoy the big advantage of using a locally-developed source code and support."

"Programs can be debugged on the spot, and we can adapt packages far more easily to local user's demands."

"Overseas programs, on the other hand, often run into problems and have to be sent back because the source code is not available in SA, but under licence at its country of origin."

"It can lead to delays and further cost disadvantages to users as rands flow out of SA," Grosberg says.

On the legal software side, Grosberg reckons it is a waste to sell legal packages from other countries that have to be adapted.

"There are at least five excellent locally-developed packages available in SA."

"Our own legal package, *Leact*, is a good example of a top-line program incorporating comprehensive client control and general ledger features."

Another locally-developed system is available from the Johannesburg-based Goalfix Corporation, which has sold hundreds of its Goalfix Planner package for financial planning and analyses into several local and overseas companies.

The Planner is now in its third version, and according to Goalfix MD Alan Price, this version is faster and much improved on previous versions.

"We have implemented the package at various companies where it has saved thousands of rands for companies."

"It is used for operations analysis, and simple instructions implemented on the computer show users how to make more efficient decisions."

Punch-Line is also involved in local software development, and has set up a division for this purpose.

According to MD Barry Schechter, the company has already had some interest from overseas software houses which hope to buy some of the locally-developed product.

"At current rand exchange rates, our software looks very reasonably priced, and this is assisting overseas sales," he says.

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HI-TECH PROJECT LOANS OFFERED

Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 20 Mar 87 p 11

[Text]

THE Industrial development corporation (IDC) is offering venture capital to people with high-tech projects — but so far it's disappointed with the response.

Senior GM responsible for loan finance, Carel van der Merwe, said the IDC, which made R200m after tax last year, is awash with money to offer to small and medium-size companies. As a rule of thumb, venture capital is available to companies with assets of from R750 000 to R20m. Smaller businesses should first go to the Small Business Corporation (SBDC).

The Venture Finance Scheme is for any manufacturing project that will promote technology, including computer software. "This doesn't mean the leading edge of technology," says Van Der Merwe. "We wouldn't help a chap with a furniture workshop. But if he's making a fancy varnish needed by the chemical industry, we'll look at it. We'll entertain a loan as low as R20 000 if it's for the right kind of high-tech idea."

Loans under the scheme to date total R5m-R6m, more than R1m going to one company.

Assistance to manufacturers can take many forms — loans with a fixed interest rate for five years, or fluctuating interest rates. It can be as share capital or a leaseback.

In the case of preference share assistance: "The borrower puts in as much as he can, and we fund the balance with preference share capital at a low 5% or 6%. The basic interest rate only becomes payable out of profits; if he makes no profit he has no repayment or interest burden."

The IDC usually has a mechanism allowing it to benefit from growth of the company. "Either we push up our rate to, say, 10% or we have a share in the business. It's usually under 25%, and we never ask for control."

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LOCAL ARMS EXPANSION DISCUSSED

Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 20 Mar 87 p 11

[Text]

A NUMBER of SA companies manufacture arms and ammunition — one being the Armscor subsidiary, Musgrave, which makes hunting and sporting rifles.

Since 1984 Musgrave has expanded its production capacity by 600%, and claims to supply 70% of the local market. If manufacturing capacity were fully utilised, the local market would be unable to absorb all the output, the company says.

However, like many SA industries, the sporting and hunting rifle sector has suffered in the recent recession.

Musgrave's GM Able Koch says: "The costs of hunting are high, so people are hunting less often than in the past."

Another problem is rising manufacturing costs. Due to the rand's fall against other major currencies, imported capital equipment has more than doubled in price, and consequently the price of finished rifles has risen.

Musgrave also distributes locally-made ammunition. Opinion on the quality of SA manufactured ammunition varies among dealers. Some state it is of low quality and has been known to explode in the weapon. Others are vehement in its defence, saying in many cases SA ammunition is superior to the overseas product.

Musgrave is adamant the local ammunition is of the highest standard. It points out local ammunition is approved

by the military and tested by the SABS. Quality checks are stringent at every phase of manufacture. In response to the charge that local ammunition has exploded in weapons, Musgrave states this is nearly impossible.

There are two circumstances which could give rise to this problem. The first is if the cartridge is overloaded with powder. The manufacturer has installed isotope gauges, which are more effective than weighing to ensure the correct amount of powder is in each cartridge. If a bullet is overloaded it is rejected.

The other circumstance is if the incorrect powder is loaded. Musgrave says this would then affect the whole batch and be picked up quickly in the quality control process.

In the late 1970's some ammunition was imported into SA and sold under the Musgrave trade name. The product proved to be below the standard the company required, and was withdrawn from the market. But, Musgrave says there could still be some of this ammunition in use.

Chairman of The Clay Pigeon Club, Hennie de Klerk, says while representing SA in a UK competition, SA competitors were offered an exchange of two packets of European ammunition for one of the SA variety by their English counterparts. A high accolade for the SA manufacturer indeed.

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MARCH CAR SALES HIGHEST IN 15 MONTHS

Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 10 Apr 87 p 1

[Article by David Furlonger]

[Text] CAR SALES in March hit their highest level for 15 months.

At 16 578, sales were 11,3% up on February to record the highest monthly figure since December 1985. Car sales in the first three months were 10,3% up on the corresponding 1986 quarter.

Peter Searle, Volkswagen MD and president of the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers (Naamsa), said yesterday. "The continued rise in passenger car sales augurs well for the motor industry."

He said March sales were traditionally strong, partly because of pre-Budget buying. "The fact that March sales increased over the previous two months despite the fact that the Budget has been postponed, indicates the economy is continuing to improve."

Searle predicted that if the trend was maintained, overall car sales this year could hit 190 000, up from 174 000 last year.

He said: "If the gross domestic product grows by at least 3% this year, and if inflation can be contained at 15% to 16% during the year, the industry can expect a market in the region of 190 000 passenger cars in 1987, about 9% higher than last year."

Bakkie and minibus sales also soared last month, as light commercial vehicle

(LCV) dealers enjoyed their second-best month since mid-1986. Sales of 7 943 were 18,8% up on February.

Naamsa director Nico Vermeulen said car and LCV figures "exceeded all expectations" and proved the tentative recovery of earlier months could now be confirmed as a clear upturn.

He attributed the recovery to several factors. These included aggressive marketing and special offers, improved business and consumer confidence, and growing pressure for overdue vehicle replacement.

Last month was the third in a row that car sales have shown big gains. Sales were 11,3% up on February's 15 162 and more than one-third up on December, when the market plummeted to little more than 12 000.

Sales of medium and heavy commercials, at 398 and 648 respectively, continued to disappoint and both were below February levels. However, industry officials said sales exceeded those of March 1986 and confirmed an underlying stronger trend in both sectors.

The 10 best-selling cars were the Corolla (2 713), Golf-Jetta (2 000), Laser/Meteor (1 616), Opel Kadett/Monza (1 343), Toyota Cressida (1 155), Mazda 323 (1 047), BMW 3 Series (808), Honda Ballade (870), Nissan Langley/Pulsar (853), and Ford Sierra (844).

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NEW OVERLAY TO COVER EXISTING HIGHWAYS

Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 16 Apr 87 p 6

[Article by Mick Collins]

[Text]

A NEW road-building technique, pioneered in the US, will be used to overlay SA's existing asphalt highways.

Fast-track concrete road construction — using high, early-strength concrete mixes — will be used to preserve high-traffic motorways.

Portland Cement Institute (PCI) spokesman Louis Marais says high-traffic blacktop roads, such as the Johannesburg to Pretoria Ben Schoeman highway need to be resurfaced every 10 years.

He says: "The proposed concrete overlay makes good sense. Concrete roads are better able to cope with the wear and tear of high volume traffic and require less maintenance during their designed lifespan."

He says the benefits of concrete roads are being noted in SA and internationally.

"A great deal of activity is now concentrated on the preservation of the motorway system — as opposed to construction of new roads — and concrete is increasingly being used in the rehabilitation and overlaying of old asphalt roads."

The good news for anyone driving at night — particularly in wet conditions — is that concrete gets top marks in the safety ratings.

Marais says: "Tests have proved that it is not only easier on the eye because of its light reflection, but excellent skid resistance provided by concrete lasts for the entire life of the road — and in all weather conditions."

"Another time-saving factor is that concrete resurfacing eliminates the need to carry out substantial preparatory work beforehand."

He says these factors add to the maximum speed of construction being maintained, while subjecting road users to the minimum inconvenience.

"Statistics show that concrete pavements have a lifespan of 25 years on average, and the increase in thickness needed to provide a life of 40 years is relatively marginal."

PCI chairman Guy Layt says: "About 12 years ago concrete roads were virtually unknown in SA. In recent times market penetration by concrete for new roads is of the order of 50%. This achievement is a tribute to the PCI."

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BRIEFS

HEWLETT PACKARD SPECTRUM DELIVERED--BSE-DATA, a Sandton technical software and systems house, has taken delivery of the first Hewlett Packard Spectrum computer sold outside US. The deal is worth about R500 000. BSE-Data MD Roland Wilk says the reduced instruction set computer (RISC) is the basis of the company's entry and commitment to the growing market based on the Unix operating system. The company is offering customers access to the Spectrum and advice so they can convert existing systems and develop new ones. BSE-DATA customers include Iscor, Sats, Sapo and Anglo American. [Text] [Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 26 Mar 87 p 15] /13046

VIEWING DEVICE FOR HELICOPTER PILOTS--Toronto--A "secret" viewing device which enables helicopter pilots to see almost as well at night as during the day had been illegally sold to SA, police said. Two Canadian companies, Lajal Scientique Inc and Aero-Vue Canada Inc and their president Larry Camphaug, were alleged to have imported the system from Hughes Aircraft in the US and illegally exported it to SA. The system includes goggles incorporating "image intensifier technology", devices which amplify light to permit good vision. [Text] [Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 2 Apr 87 p 3] /13046

MINI PABX LAUNCHED--Plessey, one of the largest makers of private automatic business exchanges (PABX) in SA, yesterday launched its smallest mini, the Gemini-S. It is the first of its kind designed for the executive home market. Retailing for R4 450, the Gemini-S provides two exchange lines and 10 extensions with almost all the benefits of a larger system. It will also be targeted at small businesses. The launch comes 12 months after the introduction of the larger Gemini, a unit offering 16 lines and 50 extensions. Approximately R500 000 has been spent adapting the Gemini-S from UK technology for SA manufacture. Plessey director Peter Vismer expects to recover costs within 3 to 5 years. Plessey's local operation is 26%-owned by Sanlam and 74% by Plessey UK, which recently reaffirmed its commitment to stay in SA. The SA operation is the most profitable of its overseas subsidiaries. [By David Cohen] [Text] [Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 6 Mar 87 p 3] /13046

NEW COMPUTERIZED SECURITY SYSTEM--Central Data Systems (CDS) has introduced a locally designed and manufactured computerised security and monitoring system, called React. Marketed by the company's Resource Control division (previously Personnel Information Management Systems), React is said to provide a complete range of data collection applications for the industrial

sector. Areas addressed include access control, time and attendance, job costing, random search and alarm monitoring. CDS says it is faster, more reliable and precise than other computer systems using manual entry. According to technical manager Boris Boulay: "React is highly competitive with overseas products on both price and performance. The installation costs of such a system are reduced due to the local manufacture and the ready availability of CDS expertise. In addition, the software can be customised." As this is a local product, industry variations can be included on a parameter basis. The system runs on IBM PCs or compatibles or on Prime mini and super-mini computers. React has already been installed in several large SA corporations such as diamond mines in Namaqualand, Chapelat Industries and Delmas Milling. [Text] Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 5 Mar 87 p 15] /13046

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